World / A11
At 35, princess decides to wed

■ World/ A9
Pinoy hurt in US consulate bombing that killed 7

■ Lifestyle / D3
Building from trash

■ Business / B1
Palace hopeful of averting rating downgrade

Tanong ng Bayan / A11
Salot ng illegal logging, bakit hindi masugpo?

Win a 21" TV. Text 2910, watch INQ TV!

Cash-strapped Pagasa craves 'pork' chops

By Norman Bordadora

IS THERE hope for Pagasa's modernization program?

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Ad-

CASH-STRAPPED/ A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph · Tuesday, December 7, 2004 ★★★ 52 pages / 5 sections / Vol. 19 / No. 363 P18 · website: www.inq7.net

Palawan: No logging, mining or factories

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Palawan prides itself on being the country's last natural frontier, with low levels of pollution, beautiful seas and beaches, and untouched wildlife reserves.

But to support such an idyllic lifestyle, the province composed of the main island of Palawan and some 1,780 smaller islets is

PALAWAN/ A18

DENR defends log firms

Defensor rejects calls to cancel forest permits

By Volt Contreras and Cynthia D. Balana

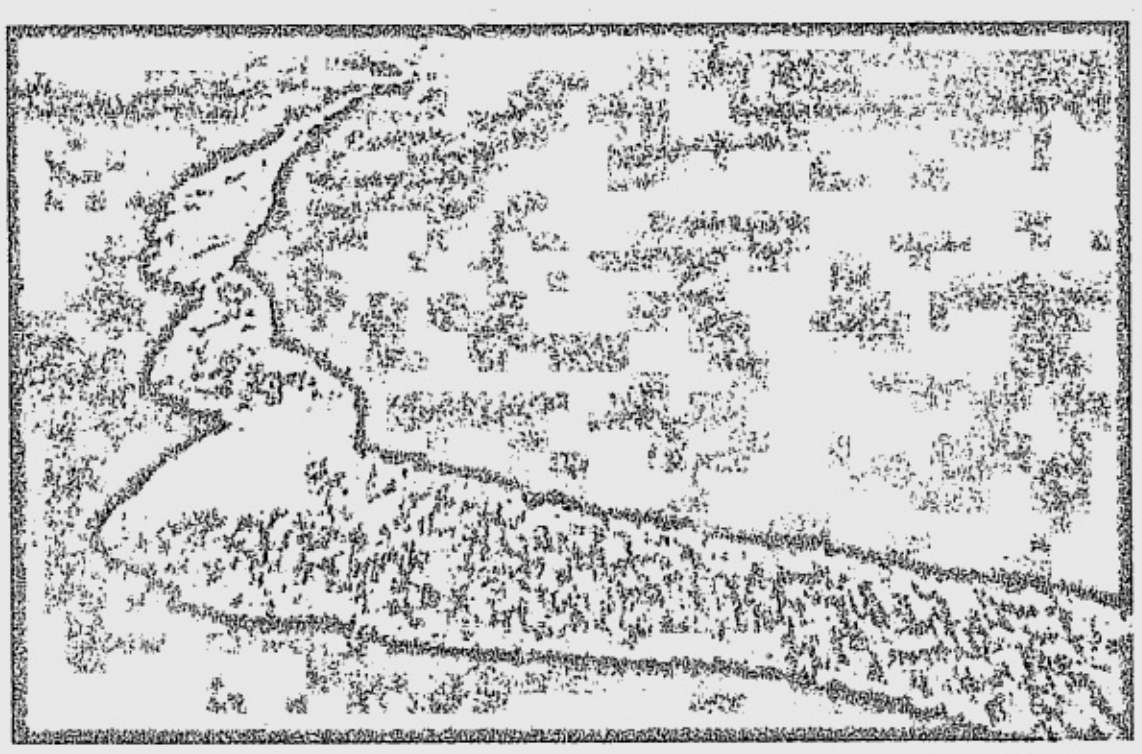
ENVIRONMENT Secretary Michael Defensor brushed aside calls from militant and nongovernment organizations for the cancellation of government permits issued to logging companies operating in the typhoon-ravaged provinces of Quezon and Aurora.

"It's more the exception rather than the rule" if some logging companies have been violating their "contracts" with the government, which basically require them to replant trees in their areas and limit the volume of timber they can harvest, Defensor said yesterday at a press conference.

Defensor made the announcement as Malacañang warned logging companies that the government would be "unforgiving" of those who would violate President Macapagal-Arroyo's order on Saturday suspending all logging in the country.

"The President's order is firm and we are expecting strict compliance, especially among the logging companies in areas where there has been an obvious aggravation of public safety, and where lives and property continue to be under severe threat," Press Secretary Ignacio

DENR/ A18



NATURE'S REVENGE. Narra logs (top photo) litter the shoreline of Dingalan, Aurora, after tumbling down the mountains and destroying lives and houses in their path. An island of logs floats in the open sea (above).

Ex-illegal logger feels no remorse

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LOS BAÑOS, Laguna—A confessed illegal logger feels no remorse despite the high death toll from the massive flooding and landslides blamed on the rampant cutting of trees in the forests of Infanta and Quezon.

"That was part of life. But I just want to make clear that it is the government that allows massive tree cutting by the country's big-time logging concessionaires," said Mang Berto (not his real name), who used to operate from Di-

EX-ILLEGAL/ A8

Gov't needs more than ₱350M for rehab work

By Christine O. Avendaño and Michael Lim Ubac

THE GOVERNMENT would need more than P350 million—its current allocation for the rehabilitation of disaster areas—to rebuild cities, towns and villages devastated by the recent wave of cyclones.

Emerging from a Senate finance committee hearing on the budget proposal for her department for 2005, Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman said rehabilitation efforts would not only be concentrated in Quezon and Aurora—the provinces hardest hit by the last two typhoons—but also in Oriental Mindoro, Camarines Sur and Camarines Norte.

"I think we will need more than that for the rehabilitation of [those areas]," she told reporters.

The rehabilitation efforts would focus on infrastructure and houses damaged by floods and landslides, she said.

Soliman said resettlement was a "clear option" for residents in

GOV'T/ A17

'Mercy ship' conks out in high seas off Quezon

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau
and Estanislao Caldez
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BRAVING bad weather, they rode on an outrigger boat on a mercy mission to bring relief goods to thousands of typhoon victims in northern Quezon.

Little did they know that they would come perilously close to being swallowed by the sea.

Some were in near tears, frightened out of their wits. Desperate for help, other kept on dialing numbers on their mobile phones—but there was no signal.

The group, comprising 40 volunteers from various organizations, recounted to the INQUIRER yesterday their brush with death when they boarded the "mercy ship" Grandstar 2 on Saturday to ferry relief goods to victims of successive typhoons which battered Quezon.

They were en route to Mauban port when the engine of their boat conked out, causing the vessel to drift.

For 40 minutes, strong winds and huge waves pounded the boat, soaking the shivering volunteers.

The crew tried in vain to fix the engine.

The volunteers, led by lawyer Asis Perez, director of Tanggol Kalikasan-Southern Tagalog, tried to put up brave faces. Lower House staff member Archie Malabanan occasionally cracked jokes, hoping to lift the spirits of the frightened women.

Protestant Pastor Noel Suministrado prayed for help from the heavens.

Finally, alerted by the flashing

MERCY/ A18

RELIEF WORK. Navy reservist volunteers segregate and repack donations for typhoon victims at Camp Aguinaldo's Logistics Command headquarters. JOAN BONDOC

11TH-HOUR JOURNEY

Painful lessons on how Filipinos value forests

By Sylvia L. Mayuga
Contributor

(First of two parts)

TYPHOONS "Violeta," "Unding" and "Yoyong" and Tropical Depression "Winnie" were well on their way when a conference with scientists, experts, environment and local government officials was convened by Haribon, Birdlife International and the European Community on Nov. 9-12.

At the eleventh hour, they would peer into the Philippine ecosystem.

There could be no better place for it than the Subic Bay Forest Reserve. Encircled by widespread ecological mayhem, the nearly 50,000-hectare Subic and Bataan National Parks are a priority candidate for the National Integrated Protected Area System (Nipas)—representative Philippine bioregions to be preserved at all costs if posterity is ever to glimpse its fast vanishing legacy on these islands.

In Subic and Bataan are some of the few undisturbed forests of Luzon, its last patches of wild nature facing the South China Sea. Declared an "Important Bird Area" by Haribon and Birdlife in

PAINFUL/ A8

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2004

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers becoming frequent over Eastern Luzon and northern sections of Visayas and Mindanao.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

FILED BY RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/12/07/04

Supreme Court upholds ruling on Tan tax cases

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE SUPREME Court has affirmed its original ruling denying the government petition to transfer the P25-billion tax evasion cases against taipan Lucio Tan to the Court of Tax Appeals (CTA).

In a seven-page resolution dated Nov. 1, the high court reiterated its Aug. 17 decision that the Marikina Metropolitan Trial Court (MeTC)—and not the CTA—should try the cases.

"It is the MeTC, and not the CTA, that has jurisdiction in the first instance over these cases, including the arraignment thereon and the trial on the merits," the court said.

"Wherefore, appellee's motion for leave to file (a second) motion for reconsideration is denied. Let judgment be entered in due course," it added.

Solicitor General Alfredo Benipayo had asked the tribunal to modify its July 13 ruling that revived the cases and order their transfer to the CTA.

Benipayo said the cases should be transferred since the CTA, under Republic Act 9282, had been vested with "exclusive original jurisdiction" over violations of the National Internal Revenue Code.

However, the high court noted that the cases were filed before RA 9282 was enacted into law. At that time, trial courts had original and exclusive jurisdiction over tax evasion cases.

The court also said that RA 9282 recognized that regular courts had original jurisdiction over tax cases where "there is no specified amount claimed."

The tribunal noted that the cases against Tan had "no specified amount claimed," adding criminal complaints for tax evasion are instituted "not to demand payment, but to penalize the taxpayer for violation of the Tax Code."

In its unanimous decision on July 13, the tribunal reversed the rulings of the Court of Appeals and the Marikina Regional Trial Court which both affirmed the March 1999 decision of the MeTC to dismiss the tax evasion cases against Tan and several officers of Fortune Tobacco Corp.

The high court also nullified the decision of Marikina MeTC Branch 75 to junk the nine counts of tax evasion against the accused and ordered it to continue hearing the criminal cases.

"After a thorough review of the orders of the MeTC dismissing the criminal cases, this court finds that said orders were null and void and were a result of a gravely injudicious exercise of judicial authority," said the 34-page ruling penned by Associate Justice Adolfo Azcuna.

Besides Tan and Fortune Tobacco officers, the others accused in the cases were officials of nine dummy firms Tan allegedly used to avoid paying taxes.

Former BIR Commissioner Liwayway Vinzons-Chato initiated the case in September 1993 before the Department of Justice when Fortune Tobacco allegedly failed to pay its ad valorem, income and value-added taxes for 1990, 1991, and 1992.

After five years of legal maneuvering by Tan's lawyers, the DOJ decided that there was probable cause against the respondents and filed the case before the Marikina MeTC on Dec. 1, 1998.

But MeTC Judge Alex Ruiz dismissed the cases on March 22, 1999 after BIR Legal and Prosecution Division chief Osias Baldovino and Assistant Chief for Prosecution Romeo P. Buan told the court that the BIR reviewed Fortune Tobacco's records and found that it had not committed any tax fraud.

Those findings were approved by then BIR Commissioner Beethoven Rualo.

HERE COMES THE SUN
President Macapagal-Arroyo switches on the Department of Agrarian Reform solar power technology support project during the turnover ceremony yesterday in the village of the Subanon tribe in Barangay Patagan, Manukan, Zamboanga del Norte. Looking on, from left, are Zamboanga del Norte Gov. Rolando Yebes, Energy Secretary Vince Perez and Spanish Ambassador Ignacio Sagaz. EDWIN BACASMAS

Telco execs prevail in franchise tax issue

By Carlito Pablo

THE SO-CALLED "lords of the cell phone ring" have prevailed over the government on the issue of instituting a franchise tax on telecommunications companies.

The executive and legislative branches are relegating to the back burner the proposed revenue measure following a meeting on Saturday between President Macapagal-Arroyo and the heads of the country's telecom giants.

The meeting was held at the Forbes Park, Makati, residence of the President, according to a source privy to recent developments.

In attendance for the telecom firms were Manuel Pangilinan of Philippine Long Distance Telephone-Smart Communications, Jaime Zobel de Ayala for Globe Telecom and Lance Gokongwei for Digital Communications, along with their respective corporate executives.

The source said that aside from President Arroyo, Trade Secretary Cesar Purisima, Finance Secretary Juanita Amatong and Finance Undersecretary Grace Tan Pulido represented the executive branch.

The legislative side was represented by Senate President Franklin Drilon, Senators Ralph Recto and Manuel Roxas III, and Representatives Jesli Lapus (NPC, Tarlac) and Exequiel Javier (Lakas, Antique).

It will be recalled that the representatives of the tobacco and liquor manufacturers were also called to a meeting with top government officials when the bill on the excise tax for "sin products" was being deliberated in the House.

That meeting was followed by the quick passage of the sin tax bill before the House although critics said that what was passed was a watered-down version.

Lapus, chair of the House ways and means committee, confirmed that the high-powered parley with the telecom representatives took place, describing it as a "consultation meeting."

"The meeting last week was an eye opener," Lapus said.

For one thing, he said, the government learned from the telecom executives that to apply a franchise tax on their businesses would "jeopardize the viability of some 80 or so players who are not even in the cellular (phone) business but were already in the red."

Secondly, "there's [no] entity [that could] absorb both a franchise (tax) and a VAT (value-added) tax," Lapus said without elaborating.

Obviously referring to Smart and Globe, Lapus added: "To target the two profitable ones would be opening up violations of uniformity of taxation."

Lapus said that in lieu of the franchise tax on telecom companies, the government would instead increase the VAT rate from the current 10 percent to 12 percent.

The VAT covers the whole range of commercial transactions across all sectors of the economy.

't'll be Christmas in Hong Kong for Erap

By Armand N. Nocum

IS GOING to be a Hong Kong Christmas and New Year for ousted President Joseph Estrada who is scheduled for knee surgery between Dec. 25 and 26.

Estrada is scheduled to be in Hong Kong from Dec. 19, 2004, to Jan. 17, 2005. The new dates were set by his lawyer Rene Saguisag, who filed before the Sandiganbayan a four-page "urgent omnibus motion to modify travel dates," seeking to change the Nov. 22 to Dec. 12 schedule given by the court in a Dec.1 resolution.

In his motion, Estrada asked that he be allowed to visit his ailing mother in Greenhills, San Juan, starting Dec. 13 until he leaves for Hong Kong for his knee replacement operation.

Also in the motion, Saguisag assured that Estrada—who is charged with plunder and perjury before the Sandiganbayan—would not travel to China which has no extradition treaty with the Philippines.

"A prominent 67-year-old patient, newly operated on, guarded by PNP personnel, who has a very sick almost 100-year-old mother who is always asking for him, cannot and will not vault the Great Wall of China," Saguisag said.

Estrada also asked that he be allowed to attend the ongoing hearing at the Sandiganbayan on Dec. 13 to personally see "Senator Alfredo Lim testify" and "to personally thank" the court for allowing him to go to Hong Kong.

Saguisag said Estrada would be returned to his vacation estate in Tanay, Rizal, following his return "on or about Jan. 18, 2005."

United Auctioneers, Inc.
"NO MINIMUM PRICE"
PUBLIC AUCTION
DECEMBER 11 & 12, 2004
(SATURDAY & SUNDAY)
Still The Preferred Auctioneer!
Sale starts at 8:30 AM SHARP!
Catch The Best at Subic Bay
ISUZU 10W DUMP TRUCK
100 DUMP TRUCKS
INSPECTION DATES:
DECEMBER 8, 9, & 10, 2004
(WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, & FRIDAY)
REGISTRATION DATES:
DECEMBER 8, to 12, 2004
10 TANKERS
FUSO ASPHALT TANKER
10 SELF LOADERS
ISUZU 10W SELF LOADER TRUCK
40 WING VANS
ISUZU FORWARD WING VAN
ALSO AVAILABLE LOCALLY ACQUIRED VEHICLE
ISUZU NKR CARGO W/ CRANE
NISSAN TERRANO
TOYOTA ESTIMA
LOCATION MAP
SUBIC
BLDG. 1455 ARGONAUT HIGHWAY, SUBIC BAY FREEPORT, PHILIPPINES
TEL NOS: (047) 252-1129 252-1155 to 58
FAX NO: (047) 252-5569
AUCTION SITE
COASTAL OIL STORAGE
PORT
CONTAINER YARD
BRIDGE
ARGONAUT HI-WAY
RIVER SIDE
EL KABAYO ROAD
POWER PLANT
RIZAL AVENUE
ROBO
GOLF AREA
HITACHI HIGH BOARD
MANILA TEL NOS: (02) 9297868 • 9205501 • 426-3908 • 453-7470 • CEL NO. 09178088824
FAX NO: (02) 929-0260 E-MAIL: info@uauctioneers.com WEBSITE: www.uauctioneers.com

Why me, says Abadia on hidden wealth raps

By Carlito Pablo

RETIRED Gen. Lisandro Abadia says he felt betrayed by the complaint brought against him alleging he had stashed away unexplained wealth estimated by the Ombudsman at P11.2 million.

The case, he said, was a revival of an 11-year-old complaint.

"Why me?" the former Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff kept asking in an interview. "I gave the best years of my life for this nation, fighting Muslim and communist rebels and rightist coup plotters."

Abadia said the Ombudsman would not have come out with a resolution filing an unexplained wealth case against him before the Sandiganbayan had he been accorded due process.

"You see, I have to look for records from my old files because this case was filed way back in 1993," Abadia said. He brought along the files which he said clarified matters.

The documents included a deed of sale covering a property in Talisay, Cebu, which was bought for P2.5 million. He made an initial down payment on the property in 1992, he said.

The other documents were:

- Vouchers and checks showing proceeds of P2.9 million and P2.6 million from the sale in 1994 of Abadia's Palawan Oil shares in the stock market.
- Papers showing proceeds of P565,000 in 1991, and P3.2 million in 1993 from the sale of shares in Antipolo Properties Inc.
- A loan document of P3 million from Metrobank transacted in November 1993.

Abadia said that all the transactions were undertaken before his retirement on April 12, 1994.

He said that since he was retiring on the date, he chose not to file his statement of assets, liabilities and net worth in 1993. That was why he said his April 12, 1994, SALN covered the year 1993 and the first four months of 1994.

Abadia claimed that the 1993 complaint against him was filed by four fictitious persons led by a certain Jaime Reyes.

He also claimed that even the notary public marking on the complaint was fake.

Noting that the Ombudsman had given the order to prosecute him before the Sandiganbayan in a resolution dated Nov. 26, 2004, Abadia said: "That's 11 years and 3 months. This is certainly justice delayed and justice denied."

Worse, he said, he was not even called to any preliminary conference where he could have been asked to submit documents.

German killed in Davao Oriental

MATI, Davao Oriental—A German national was killed when two unidentified men shot him with handguns in Lupon town, also in this province, at around 3:30 p.m. on Monday.

Lupon Mayor Alfran Quiñonez identified the victim as Burkrart Muller, 49, a native of Munich, Germany.

Quiñonez said Muller, who had two daughters by his Filipino wife, Elna, was coming out of the gate of his residence when the suspects came up and shot him at close range.

He died from at least five bullet wounds in the head and four in the body.

Quiñonez said police were investigating the incident.

Muller's family said they had received an extortion letter from the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) before he was killed.

Muller had been living in the Philippines for 15 years and was touted to be wealthy but the nature of his business was not clear.

In nearby Cateel town, unidentified armed men strafed the house of German national Andres Steinl recently, according to a report released by police on Monday.

Steinl, 52, who is engaged in mining, was not hurt, however, in the shooting that occurred on Nov. 27.

His wife, Cynthia, said they had received an extortion letter prior to the incident but she did not say who had sent it. *Ferdinand O. Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

2 Filipinos wounded in recent Iraq violence

By TJ Burgonio

TWO FILIPINOS were hurt in separate attacks on two US military camps in Iraq over the past couple of weeks, foreign affairs officials said yesterday.

Adolfo Abrea, 25, a mechanic from Samar, was hit by shrapnel in his lower left thigh when a Katyusha rocket hit a campsite of Prime Projects International (PPI) in Camp Victory on the morning of Dec. 1.

Abrea had been declared in stable condition, but he told Charge d'Affaires Ricardo Endaya on Dec. 3 that he still felt a "little numbness and discomfort in his left thigh," foreign affairs spokesperson Gilberto Asuque said.

He was set to be flown to Dubai yesterday for further medical treatment. His employer, PPI, had given assurance that he would be provided adequate medical attention.

Another Filipino, Ludwig Mark Reyes, was injured by shrapnel following a mortar attack on Camp Anaconda in late November.

"Mr. Endaya said that Mr. Reyes received immediate medical attention by camp doctors and is now recovering from the injuries," Asuque said.

Between 5,753 and 6,000 Filipinos are working in US military camps across strife-torn Iraq. Of these, 2,500 work in Camp Victory; 1,450, in Camp Anaconda, and 1,000, in Camp Cooke.

The past months, foreign affairs officials had been worried over the safety of the thousands of Filipinos working in US military camps and the hundreds eking out a living outside them in view of the escalating violence across Iraq.

On Nov. 20, Ambassador Roy Cimatu and some staff members of the Philippine Embassy in Baghdad took off for Jordan, fueling speculation that the embassy staff was evacuating in view of the worsening security situation.

Officials in Manila, however, were quick to dispel the reports, saying Cimatu had gone to Jordan to convince officials there to allow Iraq-based Filipino workers to seek refuge there in case they had to be evacuated in a worst-case scenario.

Left behind in Baghdad to work on the release of Filipino accountant Robert Tarongoy, who was abducted at gunpoint on Nov. 1, were Undersecretary Rafael Seguis, Endaya and labor attaché Angelo Jimenez.

An official, however, admitted that transporting the workers by land from Iraq to a neighboring country was risky because of the suicide attacks, roadside bombings and the raging violence there.

Some 2,000 Filipinos had managed to slip into Iraq despite a government ban on the deployment of workers there in July in the aftermath of the abduction of Filipino truck driver Angelo de la Cruz, officials said.

HONG KONG PINOYS CARE
INQUIRER publisher Isagani M. Yambot (right) receives a check for P100,000 from Hong Kong-based journalist and former INQUIRER business editor Leo Deocadiz as the contribution of Filipino workers in Hong Kong to the victims of the typhoons that recently hit the country. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

'Yoyong' lowers prices

DAGUPAN CITY—For all its adverse effects, super Typhoon "Yoyong" also brought good news to some communities.

Consumers here suddenly had a grand time buying bangus after the price of Pangasinan's favorite fish on Friday plunged from P80 a kilo to P30-P40 a kilo after fishpen operators prematurely harvested their stocks.

The strong winds spawned by Yoyong also destroyed fish cages in Bolinao town, freeing their bangus stocks into the sea and into the hands of happy residents.

But Lino Fernandez, a fishpond operator and bangus wholesaler in Dagupan City, said the low price of bangus was only temporary, adding that the price could go up in the next few days.

"Many stocks were not supposed to be harvested yet but the fishpen operators were alarmed by the super typhoon," he said.

In Baguio City, the price of strawberries also plunged from P80 a kilo to P25-P35 a kilo after farmers suddenly harvested them to avoid heavy losses from Yoyong.

Like the Pangasinan fishpen operators, farmers in Benguet started harvesting their flowers and vegetables on Thursday to take advantage of the calm weather.

The onslaught of the typhoon had been relatively mild, leaving most vegetable routes from Benguet and Mt. Province open to traffic, according to the Office of Civil Defense. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes and Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Wet Christmas predicted

By Norman Bordadora

THE CHRISTMAS season will be rainier than usual in Luzon, the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) has said in its most recent advisory on the El Niño phenomenon that is already in the Philippines.

In fact, one or two more tropical cyclones are likely to hit the country, according to the weather bureau.

Citing the latest climate information and predictions, Dr. Prisco Nilo, Pagasa officer-in-charge, said the rainfall in December will be "near to above average over most parts of Luzon."

Luzon had already exceeded its average rainfall for November with the passing of tropical cyclones Unding, Violeta and Winnie, he said.

More consistent with the dry spells associated with El Niño is the current weather in the Visayas and most of Mindanao.

Rainfall in western Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao were observed to be below average for November, Nilo said.

Less than average rainfall is also expected in December in the Visayas and Mindanao.

"Lower than average rainfall conditions are expected in Regions 6, 7 and 8, and most parts of Mindanao, he said.

Employers back 5-day work week to cut costs

By Blanche S. Rivera

"WE'RE in."

Employers yesterday backed a proposal by the Department of Labor and Employment to set a five-day work week to reduce factory costs.

Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry vice president Donald Dee said employers were also amenable to increasing the number of hours of work from eight to 12 a day in line with the DOLE plan because it would allow employees to have more time for their families and other activities.

He gave the assurance that a five-day work week would not adversely affect the salaries of monthly wage earners because the 12-hour day would translate to the same number of hours that workers render.

"It will not affect the wages. We're not looking at it from a savings point of view. We support DOLE's proposal for a five-day work week because it will also help the workers," Dee said.

He said DOLE had been consulting with different employer and employee groups about the feasibility of a five-day work week.

A tripartite council was studying the proposal, but most employers favored the idea, he said.

Dee disclosed that DOLE had prepared a draft order on the new work schedule, but said it was not yet final.

"Our concern is if the employees are strong and healthy enough to work for 12 hours each day," Dee, former president of the Employers Confederation of the Philippines, said.

"We have to fortify the workers. We have to make sure that they can do longer hours. Otherwise it would be counterproductive," he added.

About 98 percent of the country's employers manage small- and medium-scale enterprises and keep small staffs. Big companies with large numbers of workers comprise the other two percent.

FORUM ON CRISES
Ruby Roxas (left), daughter of former President Manuel Roxas, and her husband Vicente Roxas (second from right) graced the 2nd Diliman Governance Forum held recently at the University of the Philippines with the theme "A Tale of Two Fiscal Crises: 1946 and 2004." Ms Roxas' father was President in 1946. Also in photo are Prof. Leonor M. Briones (second from left) and an unidentified guest. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Former broadcaster shot dead in Sultan Kudarat

TACURONG CITY—Two unidentified gunmen shot dead a broadcaster-turned-town councilor of Lambayong, Sultan Kudarat, while she was visiting a relative here, police said Monday.

Amy Corpuz, three-time town councilor, succumbed to multiple gunshot wounds and did not reach the hospital alive, according to Chief Insp. Raul Supiter, Tacurong police chief.

The attack on Corpuz came 18 hours after motorcycle-riding men shot dead the acting mayor of Talitay, Maguindanao, while he was driving home in Cotabato City.

Corpuz, 40, had just arrived at the home of her sister-in-law, Dr. Helen Lechoncito, at noon on Monday when one of two gunmen shot her from behind.

As she fell to the ground, the other suspect opened fire with a .45-cal. pistol, hitting her in the breast.

Former Sultan Kudarat Rep. Angelo Montilla believed the attack was politically motivated. Montilla ran for governor in the last election with Corpuz as one of the candidates for the provincial board.

"We appeal to the police to dig deeper into the case. We would like to find out who masterminded the killing," Montilla told reporters.

Montilla said he and Corpuz had a pending election protest before the Commission on Elections.

Corpuz, who worked with the Notre Dame Broadcasting Corp. in Kidapawan City before entering politics in the early '90s, had been receiving death threats from unknown persons before she was murdered, police said.

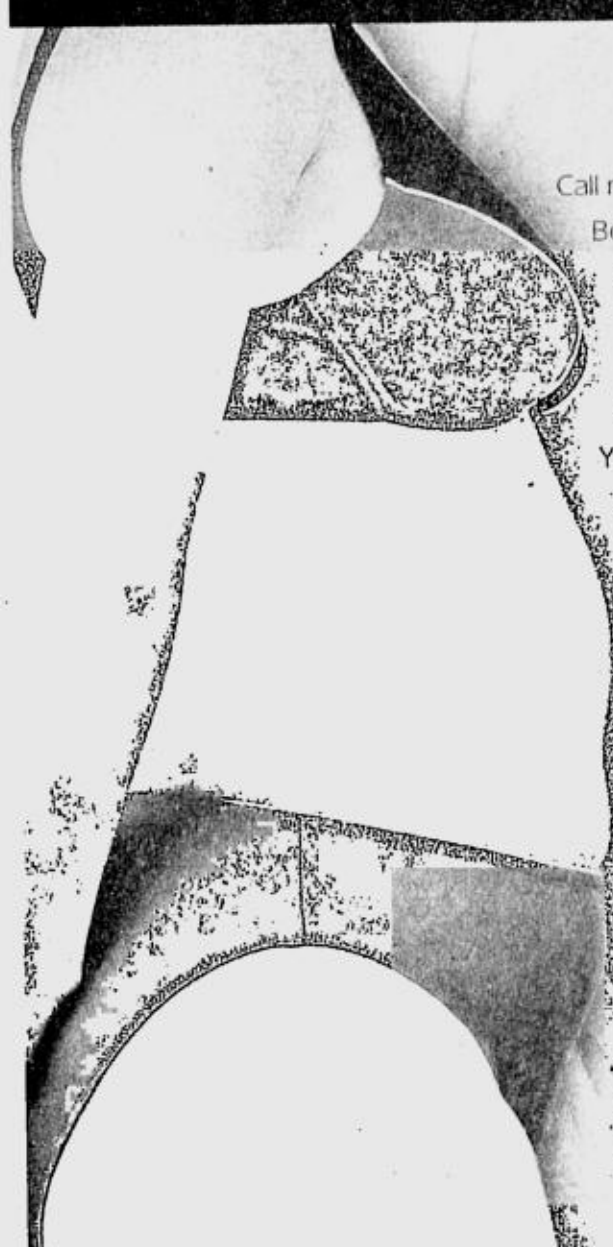
In Cotabato City, Zaidamen Midtimbang, president of the Talitay Association of Barangay Chairmen and acting town mayor, was driving along Sinsuat Avenue at around 6:30 p.m. on Sunday when two men on a motorcycle began firing at him.

Midtimbang, brother of Guindolungan, Maguindanao, Mayor Midpantao Midtimbang and Talayan Mayor Udzag Midtimbang, was with his wife and two children when the shooting occurred, according to Cotabato City Mayor Muslimin Sema.

Sema said the victim's wife managed to return fire with her husband's pistol and hit the suspects, but the armed men still managed to flee.

Police were investigating the attack. *Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Get Slim Without Lumps, Bumps or Surgery Risks



Call now for a FREE Test Treatment at Marie France Bodyline. You'll discover a relaxing, easy program of fast fat-loss that lets you have a slim figure for life. You'll enjoy a healthy lifestyle for years to come with an ever enhanced sense of well-being.

You'll be pleased you didn't opt for surgical fat removal with risks of infection, painful bruises and swelling, or an uneven healing of the skin leaving it lumpy and bumpy. And surgical fat removal doesn't give the long-term health benefits of the Marie France system.

Call now for a free test treatment. Discover the Safe & Sure way to a slim figure without starving diets, exercise routines, pills, medication or injections. Get your ideal body - The Marie France Body.

GET THE BODY THE MARIE FRANCE BODY

FREE TEST TREATMENT
For those hesitant about surgical fat-loss.
Available this week only from
December 6-11, 2004
(Offer limited to first 25 callers)

Marie France Bodyline™
www.mariefrance.com.ph
CALL 894-BODY (2639) BEST FOR EASY FAT LOSS

Microsoft

1st Philippine Innovative Teachers Leadership Awards 2004-2005

Shine on!

Microsoft Philippines salutes the stars of the 1st Philippine Innovative Teachers Leadership Awards. To the first batch of dynamic innovators - WELL DONE! They will represent the Philippines at the Innovative Teachers Regional Summit in Singapore, December 7-10, 2004!

Caberte, Manuel O.
Bayugan National High School

Daguisonan, Sherlita L.
Iligan City East High School

Macas, Elumir P.
Misamis Oriental General High School

Samadan, Eden F.
San Isidro National High School

Valeriano, Cromwell L.
Imus National High School

We would also like to congratulate the Finalists!

- ★ **Aligaen, Julito C.**
  Asuncion National High School
- ★ **Bihag, Joy B.**
  New Ormoc City National High School
- ★ **Bodikey, Sandee Janesse R.**
  Davao del Sur National High School
- ★ **Bulalayao, Leonides E.**
  Nueva Ecija National High School
- ★ **Caberte, Manuel O.**
  Bayugan National High School
- ★ **Casim, Rafaela Myrna B.**
  Tabaco National High School
- ★ **Cuteng, Vernice T.**
  Mountain Province General High School
- ★ **Dacasin, Mike de G.**
  San Jacinto National High School
- ★ **Daguisonan, Sherlita L.**
  Iligan City East High School
- ★ **De Vera, Saniata V.**
  Alicia National High School
- ★ **Dominguez, Lucia B.**
  Mountain Province General Comprehensive High School
- ★ **Faculo, Soraya T.**
  Cordillera Regional Science High School
- ★ **Gilo, Lynn G.**
  Guimbal National High School
- ★ **Ito, Anwar M.**
  Canizares National High School
- ★ **Jumawan, Ivy T.**
  Lala National High School
- ★ **Kulong, Genevieve G.**
  Ayala National High School
- ★ **Leopoldo, Ivy Joy T.**
  Cabancalan National High School
- ★ **Macas, Elumir P.**
  Misamis Oriental General High School
- ★ **Mendoza, Moses King M.**
  Manila Science High School
- ★ **Paran, Shirley Z.**
  Lupon National High School
- ★ **Pangilinan, Rosalina R.**
  Manila Science High School
- ★ **Raymundo, Lorenzo E.**
  Bacarra National High School
- ★ **Samadan, Eden F.**
  San Isidro National High School
- ★ **Tumampil, Lorna L.**
  Iligan City East High School
- ★ **Valeriano, Cromwell L.**
  Imus National High School

They teach. They innovate. They lead.

Partners in Learning PHILIPPINES

learn.ph

Philippine Business For Social Progress

DepED DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Religious groups vow to bring abuses in Mindanao to light

By Germelina Lacorte
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—International groups opposed to the US war on terror have vowed to bring the facts about human rights abuses and other forms of economic violence happening in Mindanao to the international human rights tribunal and the United Nations Commission on Human Rights after a weeklong visit to areas torn by war and violence here.

Over 300 Filipinos from all over the country and 40 foreigners representing religious groups from around the world were here recently to visit conflict areas.

They said after their visit that they had seen with their own eyes what they called the "new faces of the US empire," referring to the small-scale miners affected by the entry of big mining corporations in Compostela Valley's mining town of Diwalwal, the ethnic tribes affected by Davao del Norte's Saug Dam project, and the families displaced by the war between the government and Moro rebels in Pikit, North Cotabato.

David Wildman, executive secretary of the US-based United Methodist Church's General Board for Global Ministries, said the group would work to bring the problems affecting Mindanao to the international body and to raise the awareness of the international community on what was happening here.

The group, which billed itself "the first people's forum on peace for life," also wants an international fact-finding body to look into the human rights abuses in Mindanao, particularly those perpetrated against Muslims and Moro tribes.

Participants raised their concern over the holding of joint RP-US Balikatan exercises in Mindanao and the increased American presence, including the setting up of a virtual US consulate at a university here.

"We are gravely concerned about the affliction that we have heard and seen," said Wildman in a statement.

"The Mindanao situation reflects a resurgence of a new colonization: the sustained US military war exercises, the increased interference in the internal peace process, and the renewed influx of aid and corporate investment that can deepen the exploitation of Mindanao's patrimony and natural resources," Wildman said.

"Perhaps, not many people here know that many peoples around the world, and American people in particular, took a strong stance against the US war against Iraq," he added.

He called on the group to continue resisting the "empire," meaning the combined economic, military and political domination of the powerful to advance their interest on a global scale.

The US, he said, spends more than $400 billion a year on bases in over 150 nations all over the world.

"The present empire has religious voices that the war against terror is God's will and demonizes Muslims," he said.

In the last seven days, the group, mostly leaders of various faiths including Hindus, Buddhists, Muslims and Christians, went to conflict and violence-prone areas in Mindanao, like Diwalwal, Davao del Norte's Asuncion town, and Pikit where they were able to talk to small-scale miners, the indigenous tribes opposing the Saug river dam project, and evacuees.

South African professor and clergyman Maake Masango said one of his most moving experiences was talking to the indigenous peoples, "not in the language learned from colonizers (English), but from the language that God has given her."

Fr. Bienvenodo Trinilla, convenor of InPeace Mindanao, also read a statement calling on international human rights bodies to investigate human rights violations in Mindanao and what he called the "genocidal war against the Bangsamoro people."

"We call for international solidarity to support the Bangsamoro people's right to self-determination and to support the indigenous people's campaign to end ethnocide," Trinilla said in a statement read before reporters.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, December 7, 2004
2nd Week of Advent

1st Reading: Is 40:1-11
Gospel: Mt 18:12-14

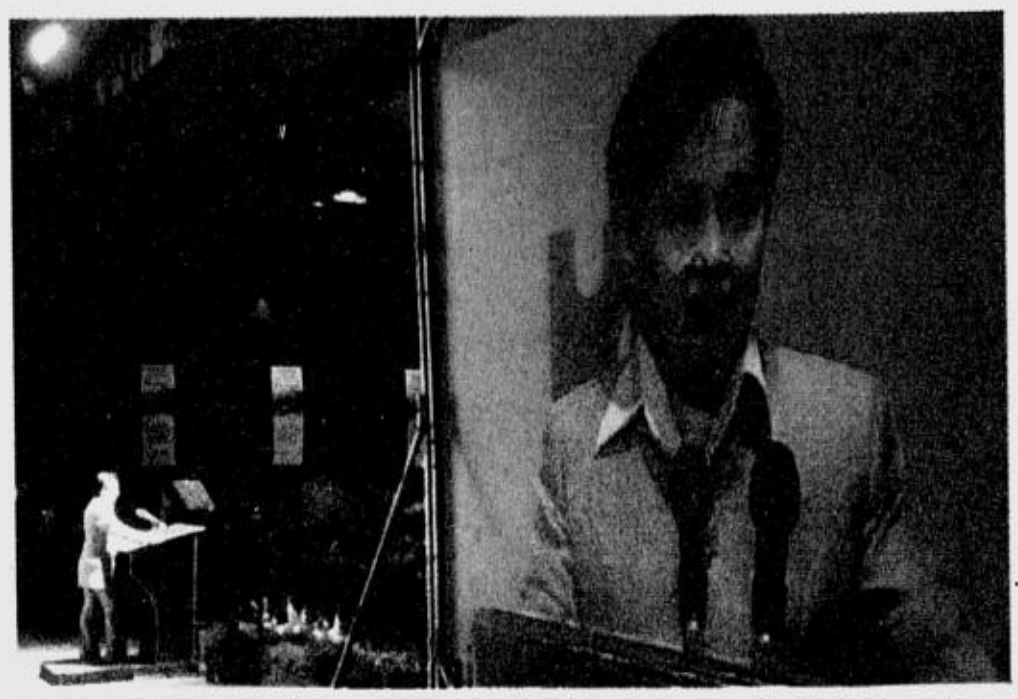
Jesus said to his disciples, "What do you think of this? If someone has a hundred sheep and one of them strays, won't he leave the ninety-nine on the hillside, and go to look for the stray one? And I tell you: when he finally finds it, he is more pleased about it than about the ninety-nine that did not get lost. It is the same with your Father in heaven: there they don't want even one of these little ones to be lost."

Commentary

This story shows that God doesn't think in percentages. Compare it with the following, "Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said [to the Sanhedrin], 'You know nothing at all! You do not understand that it is better for you to have one man die for the people than to have the whole nation destroyed'" (Jn 11:49-50). In other words, since it was politically expedient it was all right to put an innocent man to death. Caiaphas was the high priest but he thought like a politician, an unscrupulous one at that. It should serve for all time as a warning to all priests, high and low.

A neighbor long ago had twelve children, and when the eldest emigrated to America she was heart-broken. That evening she said to the others through her tears, "It will be easy to count you now!" That's how mothers think: not in numbers or percentages. That seems to be how God thinks too.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: cci@claret.org; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)



PRESIDENT Arroyo, speaking at the First National Congress on Information and Communications Technology in Basic Education in Cebu City, herself goes hi-tech by demonstrating the latest in technology that is the future for public school teachers and students. RENY PAMPOLINA

GMA orders Internet linkup for all public high schools

By Jolene R. Bulambot
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Soon, most public high schools in the country will be connected to the Internet.

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday made this assurance during the opening of the First National Congress on Information Communications Technology in Basic Education at the Waterfront Hotel here.

In her speech, the President said that before her term ends in 2010, computers would have been installed in every public high school—most of which would have access to the Internet—to push information technology in the country.

Ms Arroyo said teachers should make information and communications technology (ICT) the focal point of their innovative approach to education so that the Philippines could sustain its role as one of the world's top suppliers of ICT workers.

"Teachers must be the front liners in innovation, continually seeking out new and better ways of teaching, to continually seek new technology... and not (get) caught in a traditional, outdated mode of instruction," the President said.

She emphasized the primary role of teachers and educators to produce skilled and knowledgeable workers needed by ICT firms, especially since ICT has become the economic lifeline of thousands of Filipino families.

Ms Arroyo noted that there has been a 118 percent increase in investments in IT and electronics, which would in turn create about 25,000 jobs in 10 months.

She also said five big ICT firms in Japan have firmed up plans to locate their operations here.

Before gracing the congress, Ms Arroyo was at the Asiatown IT Park, just across from the Waterfront Hotel, to inaugurate E-Telecare International, the biggest Asia-based call center.

About 800 people attended the opening of the two-day congress, many of them teachers and administrators of private and public schools and representatives of non-government organizations.

Roberto Romulo, chair of the Foundation for Information Technology Education and Development (FIT-ED), said the congress' objective is to emphasize the benefits of using technology as a tool for teaching and learning.

FIT-Ed is an NGO which is working with the Department of Education to increase IT awareness in the country.

The congress, Romulo said, would also discuss how various technologies such as computers, the Internet, radio, television and telephones could be used to make learning more effective.

LOSE FAT FAST...

SLIMMERS WORLD

...with

BIO DYNAMICS

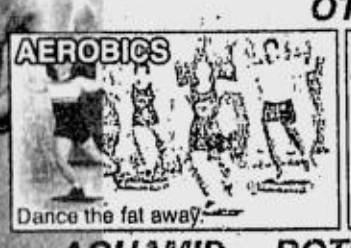
At Slimmers World, we are very much concerned of your weight problems. So, we devised a perfect programme to suit your needs. Bio Dynamics is our medically proven weight-loss system researched at Tufts University - USA, that will definitely give you the type of body you've always wanted.

Experience REAL FAT LOSS and BEAUTIFULLY TONED MUSCLES in only six weeks or GET YOUR MONEY BACK!

SAVE up to P21,000 on Full Programmes

ONLY P40 PER DAY

OTHER PROGRAMMES AND TREATMENTS



AQUAMID BOTOX RESTYLANE PERLANE ULTRAPEEL FACIAL
LASER ACNE TREATMENT WART REMOVAL NUTRACELL-FACE

NO MONTHLY DUES! NO JOINING FEES!

CALL OUR HOTLINES NOW!
FITNESS 8873533 CELLPHONE 09178984744
SKIN 8871331 CELLPHONE 09164099312

CALL US:

www.slimmersworld.com.ph inquire@slimmersworld.com.ph

ALABANG	BINONDO	CALOOCAN	CEBU	GREENHILLS	LEGASPI VILL.	MALATE	MEGAMALL	PASAY ROAD	PASIG	SM NORTH	SUBIC	TRAFALGAR
Gemma/Breezy	Thelma/Jannah	Sherry/Bheng	Joanna	Blanca	Lani	Daisy	Sheila/Jenny	Cher/Maan	Joe/Muffet	Mitch	Beth	Ice
2F RCBC Bldg. Zapote-Alabang Rd. 809-0396	3F Regina Garden II 242-1312	6F Panorama Bldg., Rizal Ave. 365-7653	Basement 1&2 Ayala Center 231-3254	27F Atlanta Ctr. #31 Annapolis 726-6505	GF Zeta Bldg. Salcedo St. 893-8935	6F Adriatico Square Adriatico ,Manila 536-0619	2F Bldg. A Mandaluyong 631-3869	1032 Arnaiz Ave. cor. Hernandez St. 887-1335 09178515920	Restaurant Ave. Marcos Hi-way 681-5333	2F Annex Bldg. Quezon City 929-5429	2F Times Square Rizal Hi-way 252-6514	2BF Trafalgar Plaza H V dela Costa 814-0138

SKIN CENTER: ALABANG 7750586/09183912510 BINONDO 24207280/09178224399 CALOOCAN 3657653 GREENHILLS 72615260/09182112732 MALATE 52598910/09213173415 MEGAMALL 63775430/09162479753 PASAY RD. 8873530/09165320785 PASIG 6473814/09275341314

UN cites RP's antidrug effort

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE COUNTRY has finally earned the international community's nod for its all-out war against drug trafficking.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has cited the Philippines for having detected and dismantled a "record number" of shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride) laboratories and for the "record high" confiscation of the banned substance and its precursor ingredients.

The honor was included in the UNODC report delivered during the 28th Meeting of the Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies of Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok, Thailand.

The UNODC particularly commended the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency for its efforts despite its depleted manpower, which got a boost from the police Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force.

Accomplishment

The office noted the country's accomplishment last year after President Macapagal-Arroyo declared a renewed crackdown against illegal drugs.

From June to December 2003, authorities dismantled 11 shabu laboratories and confiscated 3.1 tons of the drug and 5.1 tons of ephedrine, a key ingredient in the manufacture of shabu.

"The UNODC observed that, while statistics on drug seizures such as those mentioned are indicators of the drug situation in a country, they are also good indicators of the effectiveness of the drug enforcement authorities in the conduct of antidrug operations," PDEA chief Anselmo Avenido Jr. said in a statement.

Before the citation, the PDEA had been irked by a separate UN study identifying the Philippines as a major producer of shabu.

Sought for comment, PDEA deputy chief Rodolfo Caisip yesterday said he was particularly dismayed by the UN report claiming that the country was the third leading shabu exporter in the world.

"We thought that was unfair because the UN was seeing only the other side of our accomplishments, that there were so many drugs in our country," Caisip told the INQUIRER.

"But more important should be the fact that we are arresting and jailing drug lords and confiscating illegal drugs. We hope that the country's bad image would be changed with the UN's latest citation," he said.

DURANO ACES TOURISM
President Macapagal-Arroyo administers the oath of office to Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano at the Waterfront Hotel in Cebu City yesterday. Durano, an erstwhile Cebu congressman, breezed through the Commission on Appointments. Looking on are his wife, children and other relatives. PCPO MALACAÑANG

Cop chiefs revolt vs term extension

By Christian V. Esguerra

PHILIPPINE National Police Director General Edgar Aglipay is under fire from his own men.

The Association of Chiefs of Police of the Philippines Inc. (ACPPI) yesterday issued a resolution condemning the practice of extending the terms of service of retiring police officers, the very manner by which Aglipay became PNP chief in August.

An organization of active and retired police officers, the ACPPI is headed by its president, Deputy Director General Ricardo de Leon; Aglipay's classmate at the Philippine Military Academy and his handpicked successor in the PNP anti-illegal drugs task force.

Aglipay's own spokesperson, Senior Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, is also a member of ACPPI.

In the resolution, the group said term extension "produces destructive effects to the morale of the officer corps, such as the *palakasan* (favored) and *bata-bata* (patronage) system," even if it was "acceptable to the beneficiary."

The scheme also "casts the organization into disrepute and eventually into disintegration" that "deprives" other police officers of their opportunity to rise to higher positions.

"Therefore, be it resolved as it is hereby resolved to reject any more extension of officers due for retirement," the ACPPI, which is chaired by retired police general Guillermo Domondon, said.

The resolution was the first sign of open opposition to Aglipay's appointment as the country's top cop after President Macapagal-Arroyo gave him a six-month term beginning August even if he was to retire in September.

A member of PMA Class '71, Aglipay reached the mandatory retirement age of 56 on Sept. 13. His term is set to expire in February.

Already, there has been persistent talk the President might extend his term again.

As it is, a number of top police officials, some of whom are known Aglipay supporters but are itching to replace him, have been silently grumbling over his term extension.

Of the contenders, the most senior is Deputy Director General Reynaldo Velasco, the PNP's no. 3 man. He is even more senior than Aglipay, having received his third star ahead of the PNP chief.

Another top choice is Deputy Director General Virtus Gil, the PNP's second in command who, like Velasco, was Aglipay's classmate in the PMA.

Aglipay's term extension would leave Gil only a month to serve in case he is chosen before his own mandatory retirement on March 14 next year, and Velasco only three months before his retirement in May.

The extension had dashed the hopes of former contenders, Directors Eduardo Matillano and Enrique Galang Jr.

Matillano, also a member of PMA '71, retired on Nov. 30, while Galang, of Class '72, is set to retire on Dec. 24.

Aglipay would not have been chief had not then Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. cut short his own term by four months. Ebdane was supposed to retire on Dec. 31.

NPA rebel killed in Agusan Norte

ZAMBOANGA CITY—At least one communist rebel was killed when soldiers, backed by two helicopter gunships, overran a New People's Army camp in Agusan del Norte, the military said Sunday.

The soldiers, supported by two MG-520 helicopters, clashed with about 60 members of the NPA in their encampment outside Nasipit town on Saturday, Col. Domingo Tutaan said.

The rebels fled to the surrounding mountains. One dead guerrilla and his rifle were recovered along with a power generator and rebel documents, the military said. No soldiers were hurt in the incident.

According to Tutaan, the assault was mounted to prevent the rebels from carrying out a series of planned attacks in the area.

In Surigao del Norte, troops confiscated a cache of homemade land mines, detonating devices and assorted ammunition from an NPA camp on Wednesday, a military report said yesterday.

A platoon of the 30th Infantry Battalion was conducting anti-insurgency operations when they overran the NPA encampment in Barangay Camam-onan, Gigauit, the report said.

The land mines were attached to four live rounds of 60-mm mortar, according to Maj. Gen. Samuel Bagasin, chief of the 4th Infantry Division.

Bagasin said the troops also recovered three hand grenades from the NPA camp.

The NPA announced in October that it would step up its attacks against government forces. *Fe B. Zamora; AFP*

IWATA ALMOST 20 YEARS IN THE MARKET NOW
BUNDY CLOCKS · PROJECTOR · HAND DRYER · PAPER SHREDDER CROSS-CUT · RECHARGEABLE SPOTLIGHT
CW-1A P12,850 · E2A P9,500 · CH-1A P9,300 · IWATA-1E P4,895 · TEW PUSH BUTTON P8,300 AUTOMATIC P8,300 · P7,800 · P8,600
SEALERS IMPULSE & DIRECT HAND SEALER · LAMINATOR · MINERAL WATER POT 5 Steps Filtration 15Lits. caps P1,495 · IWATA INDUSTRIAL FAN HEAVY DUTY 3 STEEL BLADES 30" Diameter P3,890
FOR INQ: COLENT ENT. CO.
412-4317, 740-3815, 742-8138/39/40, 742-8142, 411-2386 TO 88
TELEFAX: 411-2385 FAX: 411-2389

Restore your defective equipment at Affordable Cost!
We Specialize in LAPTOP & FAX REPAIRS
We also repair: • PC's • Printer • Monitors • Electronic Typewriters • UPS • Shredders & Others
FOR MULTI-USERS AVAIL OF OUR MAINTENANCE PROGRAM
Best in Customer Satisfaction -Samsung Electronics
BUSINESSCARE S.T.C. Inc. Quiapo Center Makati/Manila
687-6425/687-4213/817-0977/817-0917

BANGKOK $185 per person Airfare via LH, RT Transfers breakfast, hotel city tour
FULL PACKAGE 3DAYS
BANGKOK LAND ARRANGEMENT "BARKADA PACKAGE 4 in a ROOM"
★MONTIEN - 4 Star Hotel. free shopping shuttle to pathpong, city tour $40 per person
★BANGKOK PALACE WELLNESS (w/ 2 hour Thai Massage & Noodle Treat) $50 per person
FULL PACKAGE TOURS: •HONGKONG $179 3DAYS · •SINGAPORE $280 4DAYS · •SYDNEY $635 4DAYS
SAIGON, VIETNAM ★ Top class services full tours, full boardmeals, full package 3days $388
PHILIPPINES – LOCAL TOURS, TRIPS, EXCURSIONS
•BORACAY, 3DAYS P7,500.00 · •TAMBULI, CEBU 3 DAYS P8,400.00 · •BOHOL BEACH CLUB 3 DAYS P8,500.00 · •LEGEND PALAWAN 3 DAYS P11,660.00
Family Fun only 2 hours from Cubao! SIERRA MADRE COUNTRY CLUB Special day Package only P650 per person Includes: breakfast, lunch, dinner, 2 snacks, unlimited coffee services and use of club facilities! Swim, golf, horseback, trek, tennis badminton, firing range etc...
PASSPORTING • VISA ASSISTANCE • EXTENSION OF STAY for FOREIGNERS
Other Destination: Great tours to USA, HAWAII, CANADA, JAPAN, SINGAPORE, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, EUROPE, MALAYSIA, INDIA, BRUNEI, VIETNAM, GUAM, SOUTH AFRICA, SOUTH AMERICA, EASTERN EUROPE, MEDITERRANEAN & MORE!
WORLD WINGS INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AND TOURS CORPORATION
Tels.: 926-5804 • 926-5805 • 926-5817 • 926-5821 • 926-5849 Fax: 926-5842
G/F K-Plaza, 18 Kamuning Road, QC (Infront of Delgado Hospital)
Email: worldwings@worldwings.com.ph (OPEN ON SATURDAYS)

COLLAPSIBLE TENTS
HEAVY DUTY TARPAULIN • SAFELY TRANSPORTED • CUSTOM SIZES & COLORS AVAILABLE
FOR: OPEN GARAGE • BEACHES • OUTDOOR PARTIES
TENTS CAN BE ASSEMBLED IN 15 MINUTES NO TOOLS REQUIRED
TYPE A CAR PORT OR PARTY TENT · TYPE B ENCLOSED FIXED CAR PORT OR TEMPORARY STORAGE · TYPE C CAR PORT OR PARTY TENT
TYPE D BEACH & GARDEN TENT P8,500 · TYPE E PARTY & GARDEN TENT · WINDOW AWNING WE ALSO MAKE AWNING FOR WINDOWS
TIANGGE TENT AVAILABLE FOR RENT
**PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE W/OUT PRIOR NOTICE
PLEASE CALL FOR INQUIRIES. Website: www.triplextents.com
triplex Auto Detailing & Trading | Tent Sales and Rental Tables & Chairs # 28 KJ cor. K6 St. Kamias Rd Q.C. Tel 928-1486 • Telefax 929-5803

EMBARRASSED by BAD BREATH?
It's amazing breakthrough in medical technology Therabreath System™ a U.S product effectively eliminates *bad breath, bitter/ sour taste, phlegm in throat, pasty saliva, post nasal drip, awful morning breath.*
Bad Breath is caused by sulfur producing bacteria on your tongue & throat not in stomach or sinus. That's why mouthwashes and capsules don't really work.
Free use of *Halimeter* to detect the source of bacteria and monitoring bad breath condition
Free delivery w/in Metro Manila Money back guarantee
Tel: 890-6380; 895-5532; 897-2466 Cell# 0917-7965859;0919-5109455

ORIENTIQUE XMAS SALE!
30% OFF STOREWIDE! Plus just bring this ad with you- for every Single reciept of P50,000 you get an additional P5,000 discount!
From Nov 18 to Dec 20, 2004
So many great items to choose from...Newly arrived furniture made of aged Teakwood from India & Indonesia. Wide range of American size sofas, coffee tables, Balinese benches, doors, garden furniture, beds, dining tables, buffet tables, console tables, cabinets, entertainment cabinets, side tables, mirrors, wall carvings, lamps, accessories & many more! Carpets to brighten your home- all 100% handmade from double knots to superfine Silk ones!!
Per DTI-NCR permit no 5758 series of 2004
Mandaluyong: No.7 Pines St.(cor.Sheridan St), Metro Manila. Tel: 7466850 - 839
Alabang:304 Home precinct,Commerce cor.Filinvest Ave,West Gate,Filinvest City. Tel:7711062

HOMEMADE FOODSTUFF
CALL: 410-4521 929-9598 • 928-2765 926-6031 • 926-6029 415-3841 • 410-7228
FREE DELIVERY
FIESTA ESPESYAL 6 courses For 20 persons .....P2,575 only
CHICKEN RELLENO [Net wt 1.2 kg cooked], boneless & makes about 25 slices • BEEF CALDERETA [2kg beef] thick spicy sauce • EMBOTIDO GRANDE [1ft x 2½" x 3½"] makes 40 small slices or 20 big slices • BAKED MACARONI [Net wt 2kg] meaty and cheesy • CHOPPED CHICKEN IN GREENPEAS and QUAIL EGGS [2kg chicken] • FRUIT SALAD [Net wt 2.0 kg] special and creamy with peaches, grapes, and lychees
PULUTAN ESPESYAL 4 courses For 20 persons P1,850 only
PULUTAN GRANDE 5 courses For 20 persons P2,200 only
FIESTA ROYALE 8 courses For 25 persons P3,450 only
FIESTA PILIPINO 6 courses For 20 persons P2,600 only
FIESTA GRANDE 8 courses For 20 persons P2,825 only
FIESTA TROPICANA 6 courses For 20 persons P3,280 only
HOLIDAY SPECIAL 10 courses For 35 persons P8,325 only
BUFFET DE LUXE 6 courses For 35 persons P5,675 only
CCME HOMEMADE FOODSTUFF CO. 111 Dr. Lascano St., Q.C.

Where you find the best. JOE'S HOMEMADE

WARNING NOTICE
We, Kabushiki Kaisha Kenwood (Kenwood Corporation) hereby notice to all Kenwood communications equipment customers that there are fake products of Kenwood FM Transceiver TK-2107 and TK-3107 which infringing Kenwood trademarks. The followings are differences between Kenwood FM Transceiver TK-2107/3107 and fake products
KENWOOD FM Transceiver TK-2107 / TK-3107 · COUNTERFEIT
J72-0686 J72-0687 X57-600 or X57-601 VHF UHF · 100-pin MPU · BLACK Molding
NO Such Indication · NOT 100-pin MPU Such As M38268MCL060GP · Metal
Back side of Printed Circuit Board (for Authorized Service Persons only)
Also, we warn that we have been reported of fake products of Kenwood FM Transceiver's accessories such as battery KNB-15A, battery charger KSC-15, etc. which infringing Kenwood trademarks.
The logo shown is a trademark owned by Kabushiki Kaisha Kenwood (Kenwood Corporation) of Japan which have been registered and used in respect of audio equipment, communications apparatus and instruments, measuring instruments, video equipment and parts and accessories thereof in Philippines and abroad for so long that they are well-known and preferred by the public. [Philippines Trademark Registration No. 38438 (KENWOOD) registered on March 17, 1988]
Kabushiki Kaisha Kenwood (Kenwood Corporation) hereby puts on notice those who manufacture, sell or offer for sale audio equipment, communications apparatus and instruments, measuring instruments, video equipment and parts and accessories thereof using any trademark counterfeiting or infringing any of the above trademarks in any manner that they must immediately stop such unlawful acts Otherwise, Kabushiki Kaisha Kenwood (Kenwood Corporation) shall relentlessly take both trademark identical or confusingly similar to any of the trademarks showing below on products not manufactured by or under license from Kabushiki Kaisha Kenwood (Kenwood Corporation) constitutes trademark counterfeiting or imitation, a criminal offence.
Lastly, please provide us with any information concerning the imitation or the counterfeit bearing the mark, which is identical with or confusingly similar to the marks as shown below.
KENWOOD
Only Kenwood authorized dealers can supply genuine Kenwood communications equipment and accessories
KENWOOD CORPORATION 2967-3, Ishikawa-machi, Hachioujl-shi, Tokyo, 192-8525 Japan
KENWOOD ELECTRONICS SINGAPORE PTE LTD 1 Ang Mo Kio Street 63 Singapore 569110
Authorized Dealer in Philippines: ANASCOMM ELECTRONICS CENTER 733-8185 • 734-8185 • 733-8857 to 58 736-8185 • 736-8898 • 661-5063 to 64

Pretty Hands and Feet ONLY WITH ARTEFILL
The results are dramatic, beautiful and permanent!
We offer an affordable, safe, effective, fast, simple, and virtually painless way to have beautiful, vein-free, young, sexy hands and feet!
prettylooks
Ground Floor UG 7, City and Land Mega Plaza 1007 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 687-7507 / 687-5098 / (0917) 583-1828 www.prettylooks.com prettylooksonline@yahoo.com
SERVICES OFFERED: Aesthetic Tattoo/Permanent Make-Up · Reconstruction of Damaged Tattoos · Non Surgical Nuselift, Facelift, Buttlift · Flawless Hands and Feet · Face and Body Whitening · Face and Body Peeling · Laser Quasilase Treatment · European Deep Pore Facials · Aesthetic Varicose and Spider Vein Treatment · Silverpeel and Miracles Skin Lightening System · Warts Removal

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Few Units Left

Cityland PASONG TAMO TOWER

Ready for Occupancy

3310 Pasong Tamo St., Makati City, (In front of Don Bosco Tech. Inst.)

Own a unit for as low as...

Office units: P13,155 - P36,970/mo.

CITYLAND 2003 LEADING CONDOMINIUM DEVELOPER Presidential Awardee

www.cityland.net investment@cityland.net

IN-HOUSE FINANCING AVAILABLE HLURB License to Sell No. 97-03-8553

812-2222 • 243-6565 • 818-8888 • 241-1894 • (0919)310-8553

NACHO KING!

www.nachoking.com

BE A DEALER!

No Franchise Fee
No Royalties
Start Immediately
Earn Php 27,000/month

Call: 8217986 / (0917) 5338933 Poblete Compound 343 Int. West Service Road, Sunvalley Parañaque

E-mail: franchising@nachoking.com

VILLAGE tenthaus

THE PIONEER THE LEADER

* AWNINGS * CANOPIES * GARDEN / PARTY TENTS
* WAREHOUSE TENTS * CAMPING TENTS * SLEEPING BAGS
* PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT * TENT & STAGE RENTAL

TELEFAX : 872-2332

CALL FOR FREE ESTIMATES

LAS PIÑAS CITY 872-3788 | QUEZON CITY 922-0432 | MAKATI CITY 895-5484

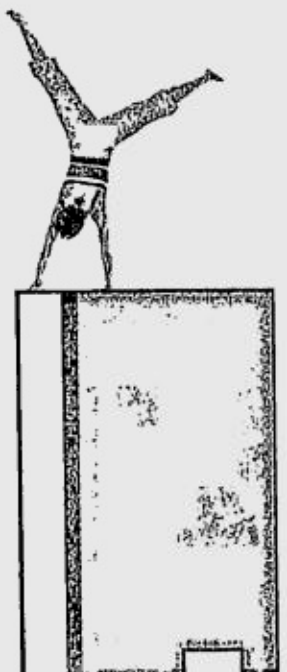
REDISCOVER A TREASURE OF FUN & EXCITEMENT

Get a copy of your 2005 Insight brochures now.

RajahTravel CORPORATION AIR FRANCE KLM

To know more about our best deals, contact your travel agent or call the Insight Desk:
Manila : Tel. Nos. 523-8301 to 07 / 526-4643 / 526-1276 Fax. 521-8304 e-mail: tourt@skyweb.net
Makati : Tel Nos. 894-6686 Fax: 817-7923 e-mail: tourmkt@rajahtravel.com
website: www.insightvacations.com

The Art of Liberating Space



THE MONDRIAN RESIDENCES

Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa

Call 807-0111

Model units ready for viewing.
For announcement purposes only.

Your fool-proof time record system has finally arrived!

David-Link FingerScan

With software support from:

Time and Attendance Management Software (bundled with Fingerscan)

Complete Payroll Management Software (Optional)

Advantages:

- Finger-driven technology in 1 sec. ID time or less
- Works well with dry, moist or even rough fingertips
- Stand alone capability even without a PC
- 30,000-record storage (downloadable)
- 1,000-user capacity

We also offer Time Recorders, Check Writers, Binding Machines, Laminators, Money Counters, Duplicators & other office equipment.

Tel. nos.: 898-3431 / 898-3432 / 890-5310 / 890-5320 / 890-5327 / 896-7764
website: www.e-davidlink.com e-mail us at: inquire_dlink@yahoo.com

Opportunity knocks but once.

JOB Market

Read it every Tuesday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer

FREE DELIVERY within Metro Manila

ORIGINAL CARWASH EQUIPMENT

NOW P39,500 For Only

Previously Priced @ ~~P55,000~~

Set Includes:
- Compressor
- Super Foam
- Vacuum
- Hi-Pressure Washer (electric driven)

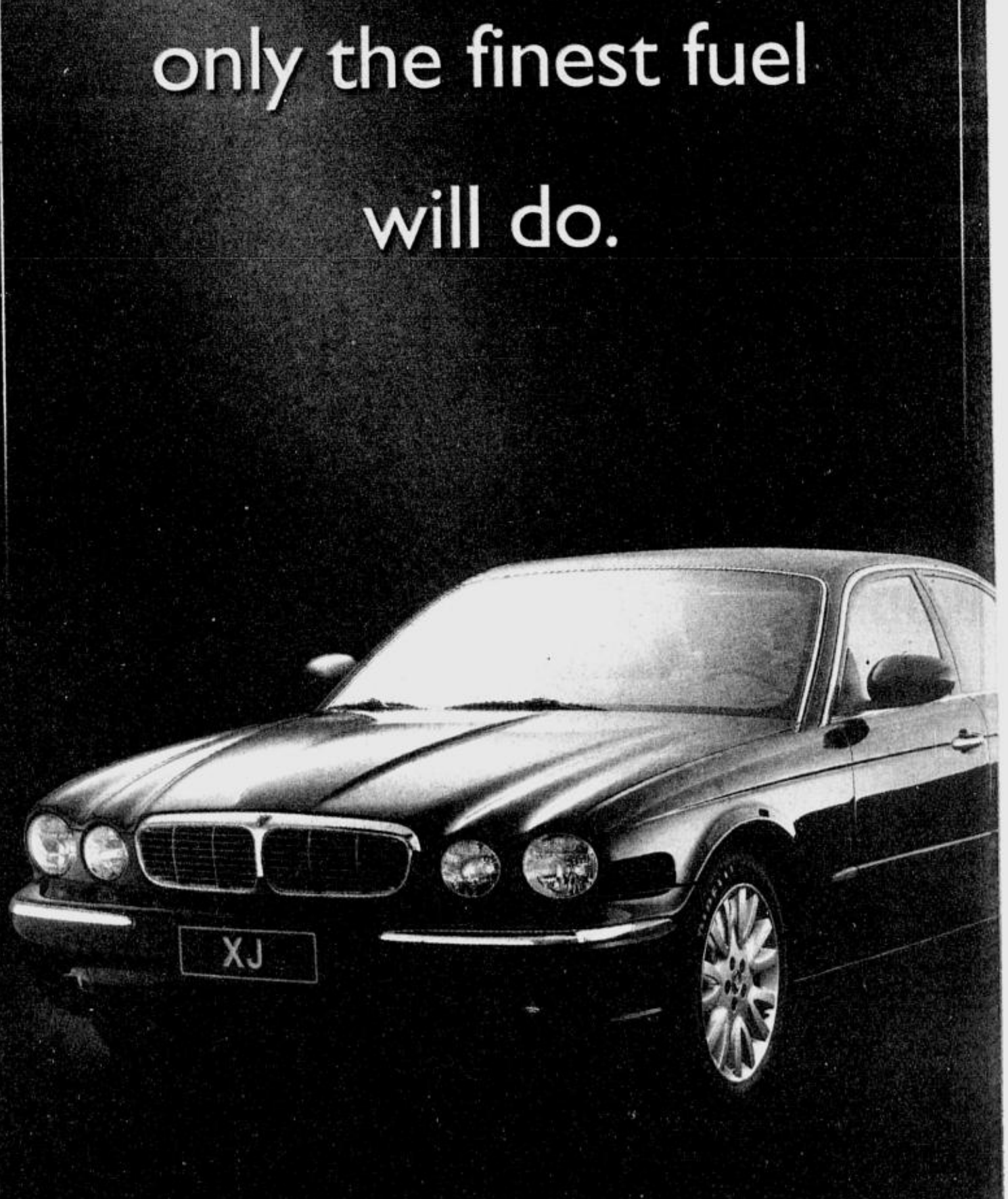
With AFTER SALES SERVICE

Major Credit Cards Accepted. Deferred Payments Up To 24 Mos.

Exclusively Distributed by: CLEANCITY COMMERCIAL INCORPORATED

MAIN OFFICE: 1851 M. OROSA ST., MALATE, MLA.
Tel. Nos.: 5244328 • 5240529 • 5245290
QUEZON CITY BRANCH: 646 QUEZON AVE. Tel. 7490581 • 7493709

For the world's finest machine, only the finest fuel will do.



PETRON BLAZE

Jaguar Cars, Inc. recommends only Petron Blaze.

Those who own a Jaguar automobile know that they are driving the finest piece of road machinery to date. It's no surprise that Jaguar Cars, Inc chooses only one fuel to keep this willing work of art going: Petron Blaze. Its extremely high-octane formulation gives you a boost in acceleration with a surge of power that you can sustain over long drives. So take it from those who know — if it's good enough for Jaguar, it's good enough for your car.

JAGUAR

Ex-illegal logger feels no remorse

From page A1

napigue town in Isabela down to Polillo island in northern Quezon.

The INQUIRER was able to convince Mang Berto to share his experience as an illegal logger after much prodding from his son "to give the public a much deeper understanding of the dynamics of the underground trade."

"My father was not bad. He was just forced by the consequences and the necessity to make ends meet for his growing family," Mang Berto's son said before the interview.

Mang Berto, now in his late sixties, said he started in the mid-1950s under the employ of a Chinese businessman, a certain Mister Song, who owned a licensed sawmill in Barrio (now barangay) Banugao in Infanta.

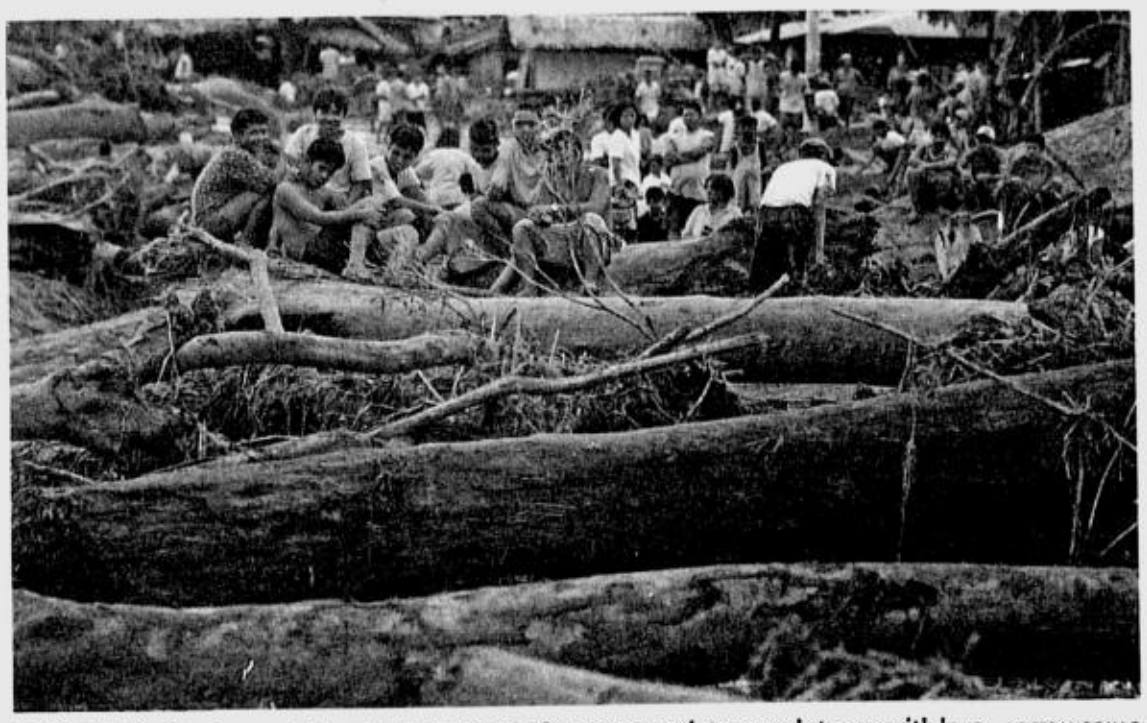
Song also had logging interests in Barrio Calubaguis in the Agta point on Polillo Island.

"Mister Song owned the first sawmill in northern Quezon. I was a personal aide to him, a trusted errand boy," he recalled.

After staying with Song for two years, Mang Berto called it quits and stayed in Manila to help a relative in his hardware business. In 1965, he worked for a certain William Tan, owner of Superwood Logging Co., in the village of Aluyon in Burdeos town in Polillo.

"Mr. Tan's licensed logging area covers almost half of Mt. Malulud. He competed with Universal Timber Corp. in the lucrative logging business on the island," the old man said.

"I worked as a checker, mainly for those logs for export. Japanese and Taiwanese ships regularly docked in Polillo to haul square logs," he said.



RESIDENTS of typhoon-stricken Infanta town in Quezon negotiate a road strewn with logs. ROGER MARGALLO

Easy money

After a couple of years, he again decided to stop working and came back to Manila. But the smell of easy money from freshly cut hardwood lured him back to the trade.

In 1975, Mang Berto found himself working again in a logging firm in Burdeos town under another Chinese businessman.

The businessman, according to Mang Berto, possessed a legal permit to cut trees but decided instead to operate a sawmill to serve other logger-businessmen in the area who had no sawmill.

He said most licensed logging companies also bought hot logs from carabao loggers.

"During those times, we used the services of the *hilador* to pull the logs to the sawmill using their carabaos," he said.

He said a big carabao could haul a log measuring 200 board feet. "We paid the carabao logger 25 centavos per board foot of log hauled to the sawmill," Mang Berto said.

They sold a board foot of *lauan* from 75 centavos to P1.25. A board foot of narra cost P2.50 to P3 then.

"There were no big-time illegal loggers during those times. The cutting of trees was done by licensed loggers. A carabao logger cutting one or two trees was an illegal logger but he was not big-time," he said.

Grease

In 1985, having learned the ins and outs of the illegal trade, Mang Berto decided to operate on his own.

"My family was getting bigger, so were their needs. My children were then entering college. I had to earn more money for them," he said.

"Besides, what I was mostly doing for my former boss was also the dirty part of the business. I was in charge of distributing grease money for protection—the SOP or the standard operating payment."

He said he got P200,000 in capital for his illegal logging venture from a certain "Pueteng," a big-time smuggler in the 1980s, who also had interests in logging in Isabela and Quezon.

"I met him when he was hiding from the authorities for his smuggling business. He requested me to handle the operation of his copra trading on Polillo Island, which I did for him," Mang Berto said.

He said he was the one who introduced Pueteng to the lucrative logging business.

He recalled that when square logs of hardwood were found floating near Polillo, he quickly saw the potential of quick money from them. The logs came from a foreign ship that sank in the high seas.

"I used P30,000 from the copra money to buy the logs in possession of the fishermen. Pueteng even scolded me, but after I sold the logs to a sawmill operator in Mauban, I netted at least P60,000. That was the time Pueteng decided to get involved in the logging business. He saw the bright potential of earning easy money," Mang Berto said.

Using his closeness to a high government official during the martial law regime, Pueteng controlled the vast logging business in Isabela and Quezon, according to Mang Berto.

So influential was the Chinese businessman that during the time of his death in a car accident in San Pablo City sometime in 1990, a military colonel was in the driver's seat.

Barges, envelopes

Mang Berto said he started his illegal logging business in Palanan, Isabela.

"I had five power saw operators and five helpers. Most of the time, it took a year before I saw my family. They would just get money from a Chinese businessman in Quezon with whom I had business dealings."

"Two of Pueteng's five barges were assigned to me. I regularly hauled narra and *ibano* (black kamagong) from Isabela to Pueteng's sawmill in Mauban. I spent P2.50 for every board foot of narra. I sold it to Pueteng for P9.50. Pueteng then sold it in Manila for P17.50," Mang Berto said.

"Most of the time, I escorted the hauling of my logs to Manila using documents provided by the DENR with the help of Pueteng. I also prepared several envelopes with money for ready distribution along the route," he said.

Mang Berto's son, who is now working in a Makati office, said: "Most of the time, I helped him in the preparation of grease money in envelopes."

Converse shoes for the NPA

Mang Berto said the envelopes were for the local officials, corrupt environment officials and police manning checkpoints along the route of the cargo.

"There was also a regular envelope for the New People's Army operating in the logging area. During Christmas and special occasions, the NPA would ask for canned goods and black Converse shoes. I just acceded to their request to ensure the smooth operation of the business," he said.

Mang Berto recalled that illegal loggers like him would find themselves converging in a house in Quezon City owned by a Chinese businessman to sell hot logs. "When we met there, it was fun. We shared problems as well as the good times," he said.

In 1993, when all of his children had finished college, Mang Berto decided to end his illegal trade.

"Besides, it was getting too dangerous. The Philippine Navy regularly conducted sea patrols. And they were the only ones who did not accept grease money," he said.

Navy patrol

Every time his boat met a Navy vessel on patrol, Mang Berto said his men would immediately throw all the logs into the sea.

"It was money lost. But it was much better than facing a naval officer. A corresponding criminal charge would surely come next. Appearing in court was another extra time," he said.

Today, bribing people costs a lot, according to Mang Berto. "You have to bribe them all. There are lots of unscrupulous government personnel now than in the past," he said.

Mang Berto now stays with his wife in a Laguna town, enjoying whatever is left of his money from his illegal logging days.

The old man made it clear that he did not operate his illegal logging activities in the Sierra Madre part of northern Quezon.

"My conscience is clear. The time that I spent in Infanta was with a government-licensed logging firm during my initial year in the business," he said.

Asis Perez, director of Tanggol Kalikasan-Southern Tagalog, an environmental legal defense center based in Lucena, was present during the interview.

Perez, a lawyer, said he was also interested in whatever information that Mang Berto could supply for the data bank of his office.

"Basically, what he narrated was the same information that we have in our files. He just validated it with his detailed story," the lawyer said.

Cash-strapped Pagasa craves 'pork' chops

From page A1

ministration (Pagasa) needs P60 million to P100 million annually for six years, or the equivalent of three to five congressmen's pork barrel allocations, for its modernization and rehabilitation scheme.

The amount represents 15 percent of a scaled-down P2.7 billion needed for the weather bureau to modernize itself, according to Dr. Alan Pineda, assistant weather services chief of Pagasa.

Jica grant

For the remaining 75 percent, Pagasa plans to ask the Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) for a grant, or the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) for a loan.

Pagasa's yearly budget is P300 million. It cannot afford to deduct P60 million to P100 million a year to finance the local counterpart funds.

"We've thought of asking congressmen to allocate part of their pork barrel to Pagasa," Pineda said, adding in jest: "We could probably name a building or a forecasting center after them."

Pineda said Jica had offered a P1-billion grant, while JBIC was willing to loan the weather bureau the entire P2.7 billion, payable in 30 years at less than one percent interest per annum, with a 10-year grace period.

Modernization program

"The problem is where to source local counterpart funds. We need P360 million to P600 million for the entire six-year project," he said.

Asked if the P2.7-billion cost could still be reduced, Pineda said Pagasa's modernization program was first proposed in 1997 with a budget of P6 billion.

The amount had been scaled down to P2.7 billion in 2000, but so far, there had been no sign of legislative action except for evaluations by the National Economic and Development Authority and a House bill filed by then Eastern Samar Rep. Eduardo Nachura calling for Pagasa's modernization.

The amount would barely cover the minimum requirements of the bureau, said Pineda. Already, 80 percent would be allocated to weather forecasting and warning equipment and the rest for manpower training.

Pagasa had also made representations with Quezon Rep. Rafael Nantes, whose constituency was among those heavily affected by Tropical Depression "Winnie" and Typhoons "Violeta," "Unding" and "Yoyong," as well as Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., chair of the Senate committee on science and technology, for renewed legislative efforts.

Wish list

And here's the rest of the weather bureau's wish list: seven radars, one of which will be dedicated to forecasting rainfall in Metro Manila; a "supercomputer" to analyze weather observation data; a satellite tracking device and imaging system that could tap onto a Japanese satellite and help monitor cloud formations in the country; improved telecommunication system, and regionalized weather forecasting and warning system.

"Right now, observed data are transmitted from observation centers in the provinces to Quezon City where they are analyzed. Only then can we issue the appropriate forecast and warning," Pineda said.

Ideal setup

Under an ideal setup, weather warnings for, say, Negros Occidental would no longer have to pass through Quezon City.

"Our weather people in the Visayas should be able to do that," he said.

Under the proposed setup, Pagasa should have weather forecasting centers in Tuguegarao for Cagayan Valley, Baguio City for northern Luzon, Legaspi City for Bicol, Mactan in Cebu for the Visayas, Cagayan de Oro and Davao cities for Mindanao.

Malacañang yesterday supported Pineda's proposal, saying that the weather bureau needed an equipment upgrade, not a revamp of management, to boost its weather forecasting operations.

"I don't think there is any question on their job performance. They (Pagasa) did a good job," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, despite criticism that the agency had been late in giving storm signal warnings that might have reduced the number of fatalities and damage caused by the string of typhoons in the last two weeks.

Bunye said President Macapagal-Arroyo did not order a review of Pagasa's operations after some sectors claimed that it had "bungled" its job when it did not provide timely storm warnings when the successive cyclones pummeled the country between Nov. 19 and Dec. 2.

The string of typhoons left more than 1,000 dead and billions of pesos in damage to property and crop losses. *With a report from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

Painful lessons of how Filipinos value forests

From page A1

the late '90s, there's a lot of bird song here to feed a city dweller's hunger for treasures in the wild.

Seven years ago, scientists on a wildlife survey sighted a Philippine hawk-eagle, a spotted buttonquail, a Luzon scoops owl, a Philippine eagle owl, a green racquet-tail, a red-crested Malkoha and its scale-feathered kin, a rufous coul, a blackish cuckoo-shrike, a white fronted tit and a white-lored oriole around Subic Bay—vanishing treasures all.

Biological diversity

Soon after, the scientists declared: "The Philippines has perhaps the greatest concentration of unique biological diversity of any country in the world, (with) an astonishingly high proportion of endemic species."

Nearly half or 44 percent of our bird species, 64 percent of our mammals, 73 percent of our reptiles and amphibians, and 44 percent of our flowering plants are found nowhere else in the world. In this position of planetary privilege, why is our country also the hottest of hot spots with perhaps the greatest concentration of endangered species of birds and mammals? Thereby hangs our tale.

Their homes, an exquisite rainbow of life, are nine forms of forest evolved through millennia across our archipelago—lowland tropical rainforest, mid-mountain forest, mossy forest, limestone forest, pine forest, beach forest, mangrove forest, freshwater and swamp forest. Each one is home to life forms with specialized functions irreplaceable in the close weaving of an ecosystem.

Haribon has spent the past 21 years in scholarship and advocacy for this teeming reality and its life-and-death stakes. Under Subic's towering trees, the memory of awakening with Asin in live concert was a perfect prelude to the next few days' news of time running out on the Philippines.

Vanishing forests

Assisted by the Ateneo School of Governance, La Salle Institute of Governance and the University of the Philippines' Center for Local and Regional Governance, it was back to school for mayors, governors, government officials, freelance environmentalists and volunteers.

The first hard lesson: the Philippines is no longer short of laws to protect what's left of its web of life. However, forest depletion continues by an estimated 200,000 hectares a year.

"One of the highest in the world," said Haribon scientist and program director Blas Tabaranza Jr. This is equivalent to a yearly loss of P11.9 billion.

But government reforestation over the past two decades has achieved only a "30-percent success rate," said the new environment secretary, Michael Defensor. Former environment official Ben Malayang named the stubborn root cause: near total ignorance of the forest's pivotal role in the chain of life among city-bred Filipinos who see it only as a source of products, if not a haven for outlaws.

Crimes against trees

Crimes against the forest now include even the "revolutionary tax" which communist rebels charge loggers. Meanwhile, shortsighted national goals, still in thrall to the colonial perspective of all land as "the property of the king" (aka Regalian Doctrine), allow progressive decimation of what little tribal wisdom we have left.

Culture is a forgotten dimension of forest protection, Malayang noted. Forest-born tribal cultures offer a nation drowning in crimes against Nature ancient knowledge of how the natural world works and how humans share its fate. But a recalcitrant Congress took over a decade to pass an Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (Ipra) which gave indigenous communities the right to protect their ancestral domain.

A retired Supreme Court justice also waged an extended legal battle with the Office of the Solicitor General, questioning the "constitutionality" of the Ipra. It was finally passed into law but continued to struggle for implementation.

This echo of the Marcos years is only one of the many questions of primary value our nation must grapple with for survival. Cross-purposes and mixed motives have hardened through time.

For one, Antonio Contreras, a doctor of forestry and now dean of La Salle's College of Arts and Science, believes that Marcos' community forestry program was more of "an instrument to legitimize the state's relationship with rural people when populations and insurgency were rising in upland areas."

Culture of command

In 1982 came the expanded strategy of an Integrated Social Forestry Program, giving 25-year leasehold agreements to communities and households "to confine their production systems to communal or household agro-forestry farms" with "secure tenure and a source of livelihood."

Such is the chasm between the government and grass roots that again, "substantial restrictions on land-use practices relegated local people to roles in which they carried out activities designed primarily by state officials."

This culture of command spilled over into the policies of the immediate post-Marcos years, when the government entered hinterland barangays and "increased control over forest management" in the name of "poverty alleviation and empowerment."

But this was really a "cost-cutting measure," said Contreras, taking advantage of community volunteerism without devolving "authority to make management decisions on forest resources."

On this track, forestry programs, largely funded by foreign donors and limited to an average of five years, fenced people off from the forest while providing them "alternative but rarely sustainable livelihoods" and "limited access to forest products without adequate support for sustainable markets."

Forests fight back

With such pittance, not even the Local Government Code's transfer of responsibility for forest management to local government units (LGUs) in 1991 could break the main stranglehold of Philippine national life—"a political culture where local political units are rarely interested in forest management unless it offers political or fiscal benefits, especially as the conduit for political and economic patronage, which often, has led to forest destruction."

Time is a stern teacher. At this writing, a steeply rising death toll caused by flash floods from denuded forests is still teaching the Filipino majority the intimate connections between wrong ideas and environmental destruction, political will, life and death.

Now, fresh fiscal crisis practically "forces devolution of forest management to the LGUs"—a crucial assignment with a big IF. Only if communities far and wide can find their way back to "true sustainability and real responsibility" can we hope to hang on to what remains.

But with a national spirit still divided by colonial blinders, pressured by the need of many and the greed of a well-connected few still rampaging in crisis, the Arroyo administration's schizoid thrust for all-out mining casts a new dark shadow over our web of life.

"How we value our forests will define our management thrust and the direction that we want to pursue [but] our policy thrust is still unclear," said Malayang.

In a week or so, this understatement would echo in more lives lost in the season's flash floods while rich "legal" loggers disappear along with illegal loggers.

For revealing this hard reality, provincial journalists are killed.

To be concluded

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

WAR CRIMINALS? This picture dated August 1945 in the Mariana Islands shows the US crew of the B-29 "Enola Gay" plane, which dropped the first atomic bomb in history. Japanese antiwar campaigners said Dec. 6 they planned a "people's tribunal" over the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki that could symbolically hold the United States responsible for war crimes. AFP

7 killed, Filipino hurt in consulate bombing

JEDDAH—Islamic militants threw explosives at the gate of the heavily guarded US consulate in Jeddah, then forced their way into the building, prompting a gun battle that left seven people dead and several wounded, including a Filipino, before the three-hour crisis was brought under control.

Three attackers were among those killed, while two others were wounded and arrested, the Saudi interior ministry announced. Saudi security officials said four of their forces, who apparently stormed the compound after the initial attack, were killed.

ABS-CBN News in the Philippines identified the wounded Filipino as Wenceslao Pescante, 56, a carpenter. It did not give his hometown but said he had been hit by several bullets but was not in critical condition.

Saudi officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said some Indian and Sudanese employees of the consulate were taken hostage and later freed.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility. Saudi officials have blamed al-Qaida operatives for attacks in the kingdom in the past two years.

In Riyadh, US Embassy spokesperson Carol Kalin said two local staff members were injured, but all American staffers were safe and none had been taken hostage. In Washington, a state department official said several Americans did sustain minor injuries.

The Saudi interior ministry statement said a "deviant bunch"—a reference to Islamic militants—threw explosives at the gate of the consulate, then entered. Saudi security forces killed "three aggressors, and two were captured after they were hit," it said.

A Saudi official said the attackers took several hostages, mostly Sudanese and Indian, just inside a gate at the consulate where people come to get their visas.

The compound is surrounded by walls at least 3 meters high and topped with barbed wire.

Saudi security officials said the assailants shot at security guards at the consulate's gate, then set off an explosion—using either a car bomb or grenades—and then got into the compound. *AP*

Iraq president says poll doable despite violence

BAGHDAD—Iraq's interim President Ghazi al-Yawar insisted that crucial elections would go ahead as planned next month despite a sharp upsurge in deadly insurgent attacks that claimed more than 90 lives in three days.

At least 21 people were killed in a string of attacks on Sunday alone, shattering a period of relative calm that followed US-led assaults on Sunni Muslim rebel-held cities.

In Washington, Yawar insisted the vote could be held on Jan. 30 as planned if the international community provided sufficient support.

"We are asking the United Nations, the whole international community, to help us," Yawar told NBC television. "We do not think that postponing elections or delaying it will solve the problem."

Yawar was to meet with US President George W. Bush on Monday to discuss Iraq's future, especially security issues and relations with the United States, which is planning to boost troop numbers to 150,000 for the elections.

Prime Minister Iyad Allawi, meanwhile, was due in Moscow for the first time since taking office six months ago in the hope of soothing tensions over Russia's opposition to the US-led war.

A senior UN official had warned at the weekend that elections could not be held in the current climate of violence, backing calls by Sunni Muslim politicians in Iraq.

Lakhdar Brahimi, a special advisor to UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and until recently UN envoy in Iraq, said the Jan. 30 vote could only take place "if first and foremost security improves."

By early January, the United States is to increase the number of troops to about 150,000 from 138,000, the highest number since it declared an end to major combat in Iraq. The aim is to ensure the election process runs smoothly.

The weekend attacks mainly members of the Iraqi security forces, the US-led forces and their allies.

On Sunday, 17 Iraqis working for the US military in Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit were killed when men in two pick-up trucks raked their minibuses with a hail of bullets, while three Iraqi national guardsmen, including a regional commander, were killed in a car bombing near the oil refinery town of Baiji, north of Tikrit.

At least six US troops also killed in attacks over three days, including two Marines killed on Friday in the restive western Al-Anbar province, where Falluja and Ramadi are located, the US military said Monday.

And in the battle-scarred city of Falluja, the Iraqi Red Crescent said the US military had asked them to withdraw "for security reasons" until further notice.

The US military said the IRC itself had decided to leave and requested a military escort out of the former rebel stronghold, where US and Iraqi forces "continue to conduct security operations so Falluja residents can return to a safe city" *AFP*

Ukraine leader rejects election reform demands

KIEV—Ukraine's outgoing President Leonid Kuchma on Monday rejected reforming the country's flawed election laws on terms set by the opposition ahead of a rerun of the ex-Soviet state's rigged vote later this month.

He spoke as Ukraine faced a third week of turmoil after presidential hopeful Viktor Yushchenko told supporters to keep up street pressure on the Moscow-backed authorities with mass rallies and a blockade of government buildings.

The opposition, emboldened by a Supreme Court ruling that the rigged Nov. 21 election should be restaged, wants Kuchma to fire his premier—who officially won the now discredited vote—and conduct election reform before they agree to constitutional changes to curb presidential powers.

"I am ready for further steps to lift this unmotivated tension so I propose once again looking at the whole packet of bills to change the election law and on changing the constitution," Kuchma told a government meeting, forced by the protests to convene at his residence just outside the capital.

"I would be prepared to sign them into law after they are adopted."

A rowdy parliamentary session on Saturday was adjourned after pro-Yushchenko members refused to vote on the two issues in a single vote.

The opposition says it will curb presidential powers after the Dec. 26 election. It says the bill before parliament on Saturday had been an attempt to neuter the post ahead of Yushchenko's likely victory.

On Sunday, Yushchenko told tens of thousands of supporters who have massed in the center of Kiev for two weeks not to lift a blockade of government offices until Kuchma fired Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich and took steps to ensure a fair vote.

As both sides in the conflict ratcheted up the pressure, the presidents of Poland and Lithuania and a top official from Russia were expected in Kiev for fresh mediation attempts.

With Russia and the West at odds over the crisis, it was not clear what the respective aims of the mediators were.

Nor was it certain that Yushchenko, a Western-leaning liberal who now holds the initiative in the crisis, would meet them along with Kuchma and Yanukovich. *Reuters*

FORTH Digital Systems
www.forth.com.ph

"No PABX System is too BIG or too Small for us"

Home & Small Office Mini PABX • Professional Digital PABX • Proximity Door Access System • Authorized Attendant (DISA Box) • GSM Line Mobile Converter

- we can upgrade your obsolete PABX with our Digital Auto Attendant & GSM Line Module
- we have *"lease to own"* plans for your upgrades & new requirements.
- we have *17 years* experience of installation and services.
- systems for Home & Small Office starts at *P12,000.00* only (3x8 System)
- we do in-house cabling & installations for PABX, PC LAN and CCTV.

Exclusive Distributor:
SOGO International Inc
538 Hon. Lacuna cor. Zamora Sts., Bangkal, Makati City
Tel. Nos.: (632) 889-0873 to 75 • Fax No.: (632) 889-0876
E-mail: sales@sogo.com.ph • Website: www.sogo.com.ph

How would you like to erase ₱1,000,000 from your housing loan?

Join the BPI Family Savings Bank

ERASE your HOUSING LOAN Promo

Get the chance to erase ₱100,000, ₱250,000, ₱500,000 or even ₱1,000,000 from your Happy Family Housing Loan!

MECHANICS:

1. All clients who avail of a BPI Family Savings Bank Happy Family Housing Loan, for a minimum loan amount of P400,000, from July 1 to December 15, 2004 will be entitled to a raffle ticket. Loan availments coursed through any BPI, BPI Family Savings Bank Branch, Express Banking Center or Business Center nationwide or through BPI Express Online are qualified to join the promo.
2. There will be one raffle ticket number for every loan booked. The raffle ticket number will correspond to the loan account number.
3. To qualify for the promo, the purpose of the loan should be any of the following:
   - Purchase of Lot, House and Lot, Townhouse or Residential Condominium
   - House Construction
   - Home Renovation
   - Refinancing of existing loan with other banks
   - Multi-purpose Loan
4. There will be three draws and one Grand Draw wherein client's loan will be erased up to P1 Million. Non-winning loan accounts are still qualified in the succeeding draws. The draw dates are as follows:

First Draw	: September 10, 2004 (Friday)	- cut-off dates: July 1 to August 31, 2004
Second Draw	: October 8, 2004 (Friday)	- cut-off dates: July 1 to September 30, 2004
Third Draw	: November 10, 2004 (Wednesday)**	- cut-off dates: July 1 to October 31, 2004
Grand Draw	: December 23, 2004 (Thursday)	- cut-off dates: July 1 to December 15, 2004

The prizes are as follows:

1st Draw - 3 winners of P100,000.00 each, tax-free, to be applied to the principal balance.*
2nd Draw - 2 winners of P250,000.00 each, tax-free, to be applied to the principal balance.*
3rd Draw - 1 winner of P500,000.00, tax-free, to be applied to the principal balance.*

Grand Draw - 1 winner of P1.0 Million, tax-free, to be applied to the entire loan.*

*In the event that the outstanding balance of the winner is less than the prize amount, the difference will be credited to the winner's settlement account.

5. All eligible accounts must be in current status as of raffle draw date to be included in the raffle.
6. Each account number may win only once during the entire promo period.
7. Winners will be notified through registered mail and will be published in leading newspapers.
8. All employees of the Unibank, its subsidiaries, its advertising and promo agencies and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity/affinity are disqualified to join this promo.
9. Prizes are neither transferable nor convertible to cash.
10. Taxes on prizes exceeding P10,000 will be shouldered by BPI Family Savings Bank.
11. In cases of dispute, the decision of BPI Family Savings Bank, with the concurrence of DTI, shall be deemed final.

Promo runs from July 1 to December 15, 2004 only! Call 845-6888 or 89-100
Log on to www.bpiexpressonline.com
Visit any BPI, BPI Family Savings Bank branch or Express Banking Center Nationwide.

For provincial inquiries, call our Business Centers: Dagupan (075) 522-0372 to 73 • San Fernando, Pampanga (045) 961-4672, 963-5524 • Lipa (043) 757-1000 to 02 • Cebu (032) 231-3395 / 3097 • Bacolod (034) 433-8032 to 33 • Iloilo (033) 337-0613 to 14 • Davao (082) 235-3558 to 60 • Cagayan de Oro (08822) 726-067 / 929

Apply for a Happy Family Housing Loan now and enjoy low monthly amortization, fast approvals and expert loan advice.

BPI FAMILY SAVINGS BANK
BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

HAPPY FAMILY HOUSING LOAN
It's All In the Family!

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1211, Series of 2004.
**approved by DTI-NCR

Indonesia urges all faiths to rise up vs terror

YOGYAKARTA, Indonesia—President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono of Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim nation, called on all religions on Monday to rise up against terrorism and show that faith could be a force for peace.

The former general, who took power in October, made the comments at the opening of an international religious conference aimed at sending a message of moderation in the region's battle against violent religious radicalism.

Participants from 13 countries ranged from Buddhist monks in orange robes to Muslim muftis and Catholic cardinals. Jews, Protestants, Hindus and Confucionists were also on hand.

But one key regional player, Malaysia, was absent as the meeting opened, and organizers said not to expect too much too soon from the two-day meeting, despite Yudhoyono's ringing words.

"We should rise up and demonstrate that religion is a force for peace," he said after prayers by religious leaders from 10 different faiths in the ancient royal capital of Yogyakarta in Indonesia's Muslim heartland.

"To my mind, terrorism today must be regarded as the enemy of all religions. In the end the forces of light, reason and hope must overpower the forces of darkness, despair and violence."

Indonesia has been hit in recent years by clashes between Christians and Muslims and by a series of bloody bombings blamed on Jemaah Islamiah, a Southeast Asian militant Islamic group linked to al-Qaida and blamed for attacks throughout the region.

The deadliest blasts ripped through nightclubs on the resort island of Bali in October 2002, killing 202 people.

Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer and Indonesian counterpart Hassan Wirajuda are co-hosting the International Dialogue on Interfaith Cooperation, organized by the foreign ministries of the two countries and Indonesia's second-largest Muslim organization, Muhammadiyah.

YUDHOYONO

"A terrible perversion of religion, with a violent face, threatens moderate believers and moderate states in both the East and the West," Downer said in a speech at the opening.

Australian tourists were the main victims of the Bali blasts, while in September of this year a car bomb attack outside the country's embassy in Jakarta killed 10 people.

More than 100 religious and community leaders and interfaith experts from Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, East Timor and members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations are delegates at the forum, held at a luxury hotel resort.

In Southeast Asia the predominantly Christian Philippines has been fighting Islamic rebels for decades, while largely Buddhist Thailand is struggling to cope with an increasingly restive and violent Muslim minority.

But no delegates from Asean member Malaysia, a Muslim country whose nationals have been among the leaders of violent militant groups like Jemaah Islamiah, were present as the meeting opened.

Organizers said their absence was a surprise and expressed hope they might still show up.

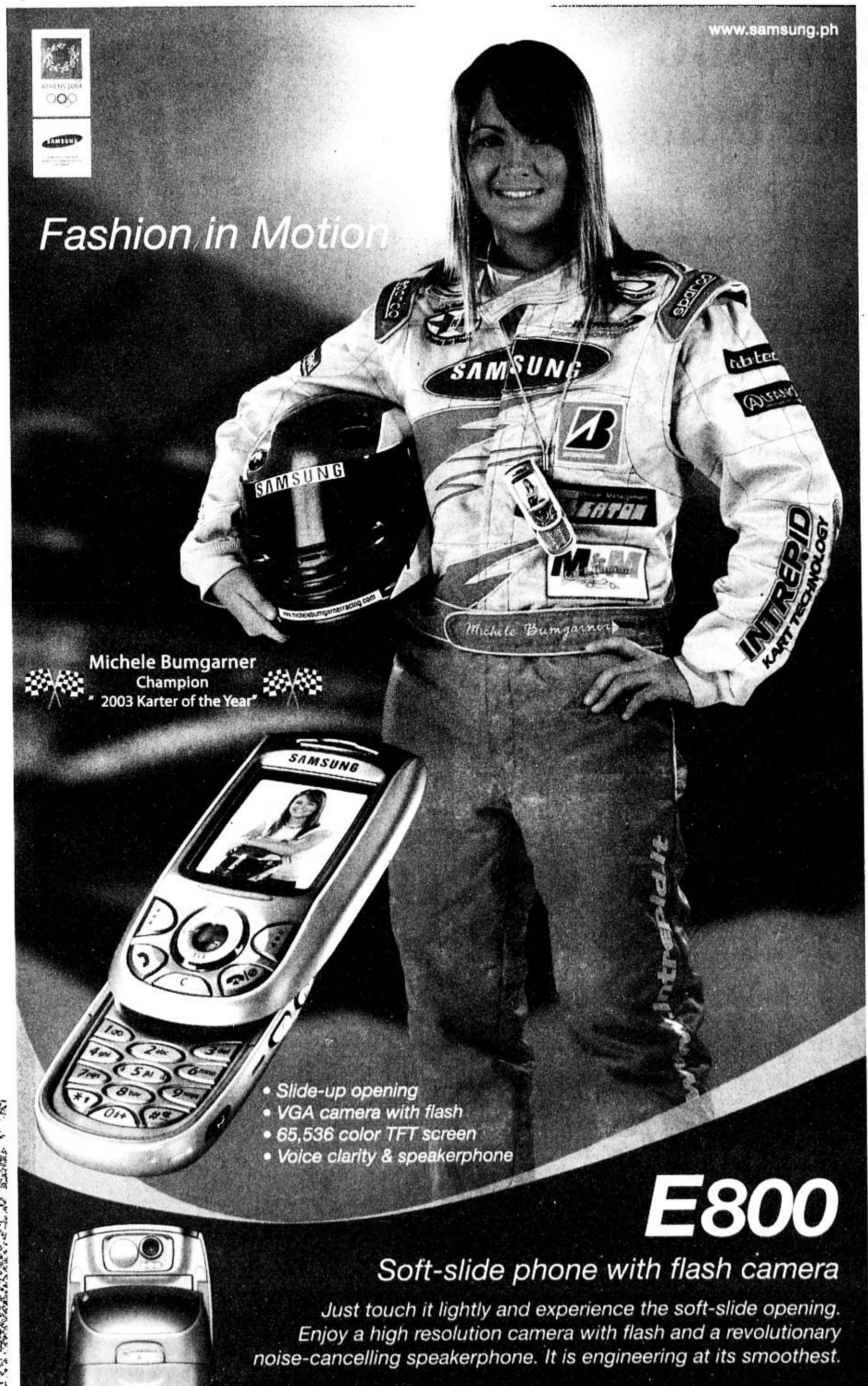
And while Yudhoyono and the foreign ministers condemned terrorism repeatedly in their talks, Muhammadiyah chairman Syafi Ma'arif's speech did not use the word, although it endorsed religious harmony and tolerance and interfaith efforts for peace.

The 30-million strong group's deputy head, Din Syamsuddin, told reporters the conference aimed not just to fight terrorism, but also a host of ills, from poverty to ignorance and HIV AIDS.

Yudhoyono said he hoped there would be a "move toward the establishment of a permanent forum" including more countries.

Downer said he did not necessarily anticipate a strong, specific joint statement from the meeting, but the start of a process.

"I think just the one meeting is going to have relatively limited impact," he said. *Reuters*



45M kids may die because of broken pledges, Oxfam says

LONDON—About 45 million children around the world will die in the next decade because rich countries have failed to meet their aid promises, humanitarian agency Oxfam said on Monday.

"The world's poorest children are paying for rich countries' policies on aid and debt with their lives," said Oxfam director Barbara Stocking.

In a report titled "Paying the Price," the British aid agency said countries like United States, Germany and Japan had reneged on pledges made in 1970 to make available 0.7 percent of their gross national income (GNI) in aid and as a result up to 45 million children would die by 2015.

"Thirty-four years on none of the G8 members have reached this target and many have not even set a timetable," it said.

The aid budgets of rich nations are half what they were in 1960, Oxfam said, while poor countries are having to cough up $100 million a day in debt repayments.

"For rich countries this is not about charity—it is about justice," Stocking said. "As rich countries get richer, they're giving less and less. This is a scandal that must stop."

British Prime Minister Tony Blair has pledged to put the environment and Africa at the top of the agenda for the year Britain is head of the G8 group of industrialized nations.

Oxfam has urged him to use that time to correct the critical imbalance.

"Oxfam is calling British Prime Minister Tony Blair to use all his negotiating power in 2005 to deliver a global deal that cancels poor countries' debt and doubles aid, alongside action to deliver trade justice and make trade fair," it said.

The United Nations is committed to halving world poverty by 2015, but to date is making painfully slow progress toward that goal.

Oxfam said the United States was giving just 0.14 percent of GNI in aid—one-tenth of what it spent on invading Iraq—and much aid from the European Union arrived a year late.

It said US aid would not hit the target to halve world poverty until 2040, and Germany would not hit it until 2087.

Japan was actually cutting its aid budget.

The report comes as the United Nation's children's rights organization Unicef prepares to release its annual report on the state of the world's children on Thursday and as a leading medical journal accused it of misdirecting its efforts. *Reuters*

Australian mother who drowned baby avoids prison term

MELBOURNE, Australia—A mother who drowned her 5-week-old baby while suffering postnatal depression was spared of a prison sentence Monday after an Australian judge said her case called for mercy.

Judge Murray Kellam told the Victoria state Supreme Court in the state capital Melbourne the community's interests would not be served by sending 32-year-old Leanne Michelle Azzopadi to prison, after she pleaded guilty to infanticide.

Instead, he released her with an order to be supervised by a prison department official for 18 months, and to continue to receive psychiatric treatment.

The court heard that baby Hayley Jade Azzopadi was found floating in the bath at the family home in Melbourne on July 18 last year.

Kellam said Azzopadi had invented a story about an armed man breaking into her home, binding and gagging her, then drowning her child. But she later made a full confession.

Her lawyer, Duncan Allen, told the court Monday she killed her child while she was mentally unbalanced. She was depressed, exhausted and "plagued by an oppressive sense of hopelessness," Allen said.

"This is a case which calls for a merciful disposition," the judge said.

Azzopadi separated from her husband after the killing. *AP*

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

At 35, princess decides to wed

TOKYO—Still single at age 35, Princess Sayako was an icon for the generation of young Japanese women who, despite being ignominiously cast into the "loser" category, have not married.

But next year, Sayako, the daughter of Emperor Akihito, will marry Yoshiki Kuroda, a 39-year-old employee in the Tokyo government's city planning department. When news of the engagement was leaked recently, it brought cheers from Japanese who had watched her reply, on her birthday every April 18, that, no, she was not getting married yet.

Her engagement reflected the choices Japanese women are increasingly making, but it also underlined enduring social restrictions. After her wedding, the princess, unlike her older brothers, will have to leave the royal family and become a commoner, in keeping with the tradition of brides joining their husbands' households. Her children will have no rights of succession to the Japanese throne.

Still, her choice was applauded by women here.

"She's wonderful because she has waited until she became 35 years old and then found the best person at the best time for her," said Yuko Matsumoto, an author who writes about social and gender issues. "I assume that she had been pressured to marry when she was 25 or 30 years old."

Indeed, the princess, back in her 20s, was presented with many potential candidates, according to the Japanese news media. But nothing clicked. She chose instead to lead the unusual life of a bachelorette princess, engaging in her official duties and pursuing her interests in ornithology. (The kingfisher was of particular interest.) *New York Times*

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
_____
CONTACT NO. _____
SIGNATURE _____

Where did you buy this copy? Please check
☐ News stand/Newsboy ☐ Subscription

Promo Period: Sept. 27- Dec. 14, 2004
Deadline of Entries:
Monthly Draws: October 17 and Nov. 17, 2004
Grand Draw: Dec. 14, 2004
Draw Dates:
Monthly Draw: October 22 and Nov. 22, 2004
Grand Draw: Dec. 21, 2004

See posters and print ads for details.
Per DTI Permit No. 2147, series of 2004

Drop in drop boxes located at Ayala and Robinson's cinema lobbies, and all LBC and Netopia branches. You may also mail entries to: Guyito Wild Hunt, PDI Bldg., corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Chino Roces Ave., Makati City.

Tanong ng Bayan
INQ TV
ABC
Tuwing Huwebes, 10:00pm

I-text ang inyong "fearless view" sa 2910. Pipiliin namin ang pinakamagaling na sagot. Ang premyo linggo-linggo: **isang 21" color TV set!**

I-type: INQTV <ang inyong sagot>, <buong pangalan>, <siyudad o probinsiya>, tapos ipadala sa 2910. Cut-off time: WEDNESDAY, 6 PM. Winner will be identified during the InqTV program: Thursday, 10:00pm, on ABC.

Salot ng illegal logging, bakit hindi masugpo?

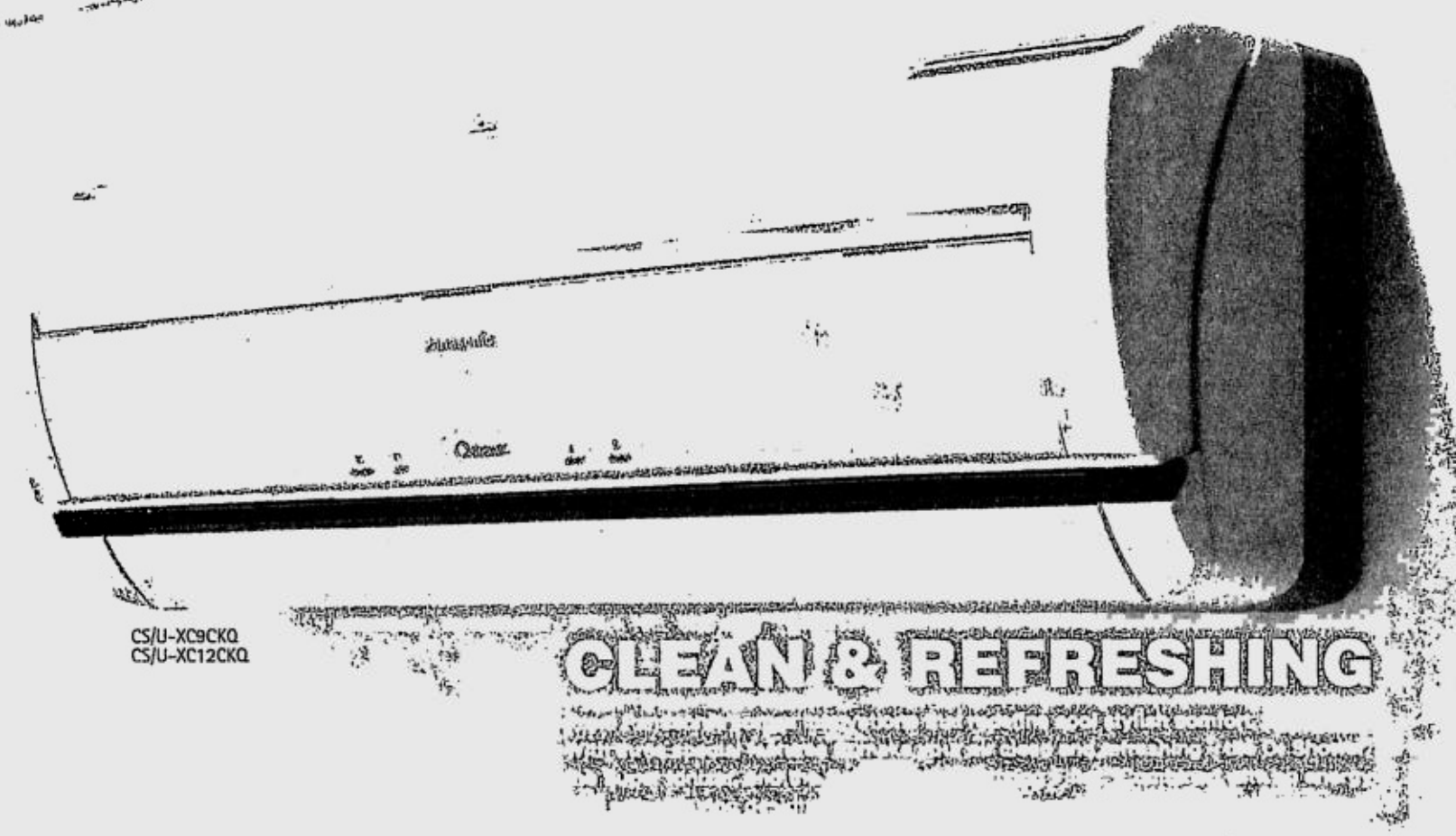
Narito ang ilan sa inyong mga nagbabagang sagot. Text na!

"kc ang anay s puno minsan ang sya pang nagbabantay"
Alejandro Panglilnan, Sta. Monica, San Simon, Pampanga

"d kc malacanang, senado at kongreso ang nabaon ng landslide. d kc presidente, mga senador at kongresman ang nabaon ng buhay"
Raul G. Sarmiento, Bacolod

True idea

It's an assurance of only the very best.



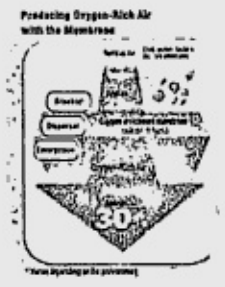
CS/U-XC9CKQ
CS/U-XC12CKQ

CLEAN & REFRESHING

PANASONIC SPLIT-TYPE AIR CONDITIONERS

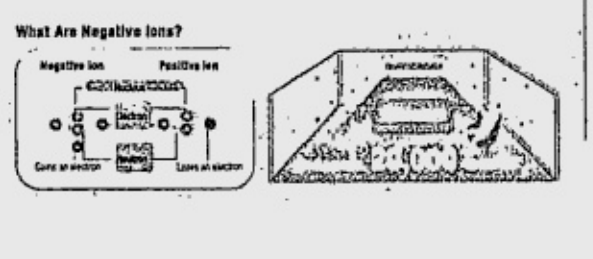
O_2 Shower
Enhances Comfort with Oxygen

With its unique oxygen enrichment membrane system, it takes in air from the outside and uses it to produce air with an oxygen level of up to 30% – the same level found in nature. This makes you feel more relaxed and stress-free.



Super Ionizer
Refreshes with Negative Ions

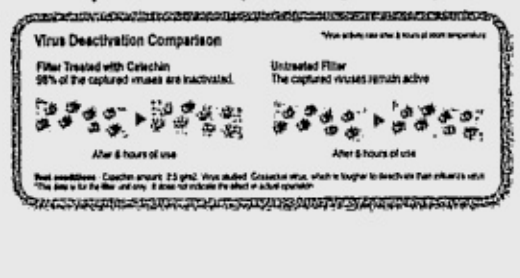
Refreshing places like park fountains, waterfalls, and forests generate around 8,000 negative ions. With just a press of a button on the remote control, you can get the same feeling. You feel even more refreshed since the Super Ionizer generates approximately 20,000 negative ions!



Catechin Air Purifying Filter
Cleans the Air

Beyond trapping common pollutants like dust mites and cigarette smoke, it also inactivates 98% of captured viruses and bacteria. Thus, preventing the spread of contagious diseases.

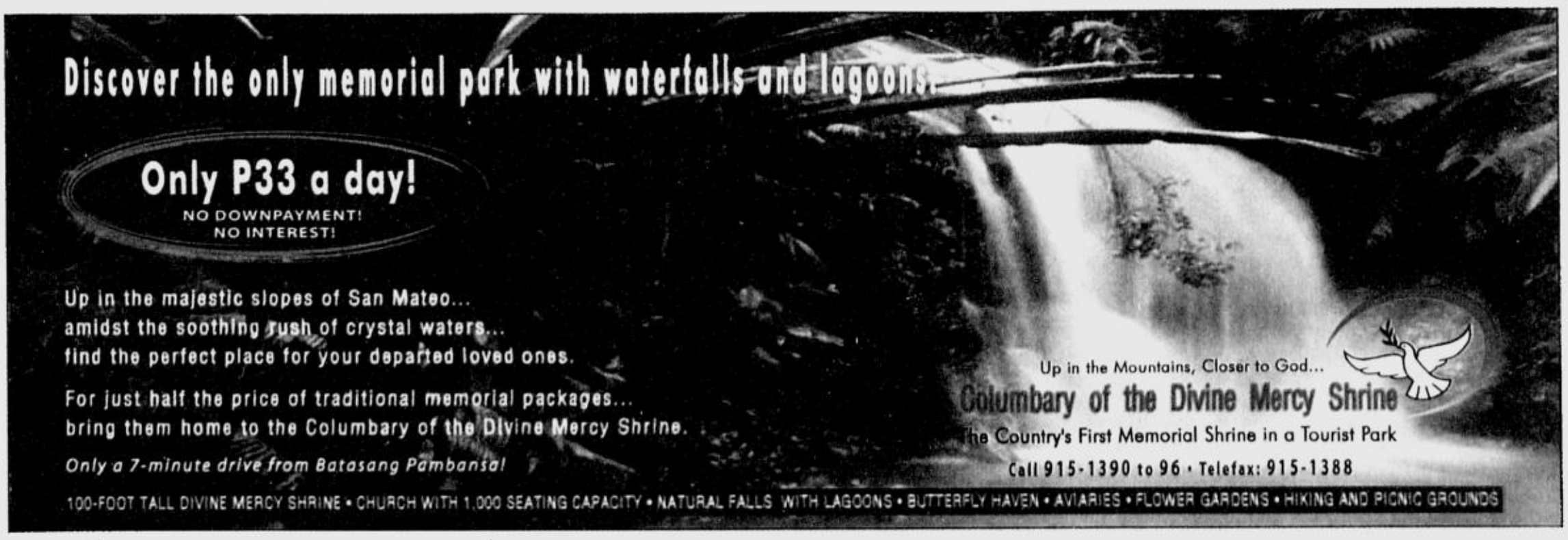
Catechin Filter



Panasonic
ideas for life

www.panasonic.com.ph

FREE INSTALLATION for every purchase of Panasonic Split-type Air Conditioner.
Promo ends on December 31, 2004.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1359 Series of



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2004

ISSN 0116-2642

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Vol. 19 No. 363

OPINION

Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net

Text us your feedback: inquirer opl name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.

100% soy ink

Publisher ISAGANI YAMBOT
Editor in Chief LETTY JIMENEZ-MAGSANOC
Managing Editor JOSE MA. D. NOLASCO
Associate Editor ABELARDO S. ULANDAY
Associate Editor for Readership ROSARIO A. GARCELLANO
News Editor ARTEMIO T. ENGRACIA JR. • Chief, News Day Desk NILO B. PAUROM
Opinion Editor JORGE V. ARUTA
National Editor PERGENTINO B. BANDAYREL JR.
City Editor GERRY LIRIO
Senior Desk Editor JUAN V. SARMIENTO JR.
Editorial Consultant AMANDO DORONILA
Chief Photographer ERNIE U. SARMIENTO
Art & Design Director LYNETT A. VILLARIBA

Board Chairman MARIXI R. PRIETO
President ALEXANDRA PRIETO-ROMUALDEZ
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing RENATO R. REINOSO
Senior Vice President for Corporate Services DAVID O. VALDES
VP for Advertising FELIPE R. OLARTE
AVP for Circulation GLORIA P. LARDIZABAL

All rights reserved. Except as permitted by law, no part of the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means stored in a database or retrieval system without its prior written permission.

Taming typhoons

"It (Hurricane Isabelle) reminds me of Cleopatra... Really pretty, but kind of sinister."—American scientist Hugh Willoughby while admiring a swirling blue-gray satellite image of "Isabelle" which killed 17 and caused billions of dollars in damage in September 2003.

EDITORIAL

VIEWED from the top or in satellite images, typhoons, the Pacific counterparts of North America's hurricanes, may truly be beautiful, but they certainly are very deadly and destructive. The typhoon is one of nature's most awesome meteorological phenomena.

Filipinos are very familiar with the death and destruction caused by typhoons. Because the Philippines lies right smack in their path, Filipinos have almost become inured to seeing 20 to 25 tropical storms hit the country every year. They've become so accustomed to typhoons that sometimes they fail to adequately prepare for it.

But we have to think seriously about typhoons and how they can be deflected or moderated. And how can we cope with the awesome, elemental forces of nature? Sometime ago, before martial law, a congressman introduced a measure that became popularly known as "a bill seeking to abolish typhoons." It was laughed at in public forums and laughed out of Congress. Actually, it had a serious intention: it sought to start studies to mitigate the effects of typhoons.

Now weather modification, and specifically the deflection or moderation of hurricanes and tropical storms, is the object of serious scientific studies. One of those engaged in such studies is American scientist Hugh Willoughby. He believes hurricane mitigation represents the next frontier of knowledge in meteorology. Forecasting is already far more sophisticated than it was 20 years ago.

The immediate challenge is preparing for hurricanes and trying to minimize devastation. Researchers have discovered that some simple adjustments like planting certain trees and using certain nails in construction can make a big difference in the level of damage caused by a hurricane.

Another researcher, Ross N. Hoffman, and his team are investigating how they could nudge hurricanes into more benign paths or otherwise defuse them. Successful computer simulations of hurricanes carried out the past few years suggest that modification could some day be feasible, he said.

In one experiment, Project Stormfury, researchers tried to tame hurricanes using cloud-seeding techniques which at that time (the 1960s) was the only practical way to affect weather. The project sought to slow the development of a hurricane by augmenting precipitation in the first rain band outside the eye wall—the ring of clouds and highwinds that encircle the eye of the storm. The Stormfury results were at best ambiguous and similar experiments have not been tried since.

What makes the research into hurricanes and typhoons very difficult is their high degree of unpredictability. The atmosphere's great sensitivity to tiny influences and the rapid compounding of small errors in weather-forecasting models are what make long-range forecasting (more than five days in advance) extremely difficult. We all know how imperfect weather forecasts are.

Still, the application of chaos theory and the use of computer simulation may yet offer hope that some day weather modification, and particularly the mitigation of the fury of typhoons, may become a reality. (A chaotic system is one that appears to behave randomly but is in fact governed by rules, Hoffman says.)

The Philippines is one of several countries that would benefit greatly from typhoon mitigation research. In the past 10 years, 4,274 persons have been killed, 7,602 injured and about 3 million left homeless by typhoons. These storms have caused almost P70 billion in damage to public and private property and crops.

Bicol and Eastern Visayas, which lie directly in the path of typhoons, are among our poorest regions. The government and the people seem to be engaged forever in a Sisyphean struggle in these areas: this year they repair the damage caused by typhoons to infrastructure and the following year they are destroyed again by even more powerful storms.

Typhoons are a great and recurring obstacle to the country's economic development. Academic and scientific institutions and Congress would be doing the country a lot of good if they could convince other countries that experience a lot of typhoons and hurricanes, like the United States, Japan, Taiwan and Hong Kong, to undertake a joint research on the taming of these terrible, awesome and destructive giants of nature.

A bitter-sweet carol

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

FEW noticed the songwriter's obituary, stashed below the fold of a newspaper's inside page a few days back. But this note on an obscure lyricist's passing, just when "Ang Pasko Ay Sumapit's" lilting lines ring out again, evoked images of Christmas past.

One was the Nativity Day Mass, then ending at the graceful Thai-style church on Bangkok's Ruamrudde Lane. Suddenly, the choir leader leapt to his feet. "Before you leave," he told the surprised congregation, "may we sing for you a Filipino carol?" With overseas Filipino workers as lead musicians, the choir then belted out one of our probably best known carols: *"Ang Pasko ay sumapit/ Tayo na at magsiawit..."* It's an exuberant carol. Listeners are drawn in with the singers.

Swedes, Thais, Australians, Germans, Nigerians, Samoans and others clapped along as the choir sang: *"Nang si Kristo'y isilang / May tatlong hari nagsidalaw..."*

Holy Redeemer parish serves an international flock. Built in the early 1950s by Redemptorist Fathers on what were Bangkok rice paddies, the church is now surrounded by skyscrapers. But that Christmas Day, few in the congregration knew—or particularly cared—that they were singing the "hijacked" adaptation of a 1933 Cebuano *dayegon* or carol: *"Kasadya Ning Taknaa"* (How Joyful Is this Season).

Composer Vicente Rubi jotted down the music for a new *dayegon* to be presented at a Christmas festival. Then Panorama Magazine writer Alex Dacanay recalls that Rubi sought out Mariano Vestil to do the lyrics. Their "Kasadya" *dayegon* won hands down.

Today, wherever Cebuano is spoken—in Bohol, Negros Oriental, Southern Leyte, Northern Mindanao, Cebu and elsewhere—carolers still sing the same infectious beat that Rubi and Vestil blended 71 years ago. *"Bualahan ang tagbalay/nga gi awitan* (Blessed are the homes where carols are sang)."

But singing this Cebuano *dayegon* in the overwhelming Buddhist city was bitter-sweet, at least for some Visayans in the pews. Italians call this joy-laced-pain *"chiaroscuro."* Among others, injustice evokes that feeling.

"The books of antiquity of every people and culture are filled with that restless human search," the theologian Catalino Arevalo notes. "One thinks of the words from Aeschylus which Robert Kennedy loved: 'And even in our sleep, pain that cannot forget falls drop by drop upon the heart.'"

Did that Christmas group include Filipino United Nations officers like the econometrician Edmundo Prantilla of Davao and Bohol's Ernesto Pernia, later Asian Development Bank economist? I don't recall now. But Dr. Jose Abueva, by then, had moved on to the United Nations University in Tokyo. He was later to become University of the Philippines president.

That Christmas, his international vessel docked at Klong Toey. So, Capt. Ariston Roxas was there together with his wife, Justin, principal of Bangkok's Mary Poppins kindergarten. So were engineer Noel Bersabe and his physician-wife, Jing.

"It's the supremest of ironies in a country that boasts of the longest celebration of Christmas," editor Jullie Yap Daza wrote in 1978. "But not a trace of effort has been made to attribute the beloved carol 'Ang Pasko Ay Sumapit' to its author Vicente D. Rubi."

When Daza wrote that, Rubi was an old impoverished widower. Until he was confined in a hospital ward, "Nong Inting" would shuffle to his door to teach startled carolers, sometimes kids banging tin-cup tambourines, how to sing his *dayegon*.

Rubi and Vestil's carol had been hi-jacked for P150 by a record company. Nong Inting, who died in 1980, was "denied what was due him in royalties," Daza added. As Shakespeare's King Lear puts it, "I am a man/More sinned against than sinning."

Record companies conned the carol's authors over the years with legal dodges. That's par for the course in a country where court verdicts on dictators and their plunder are sapped by a never-ending spiral of motions. "I can delay this case for at least five years" boasted an *abogado de campanilla* after Edsa II.

Twenty-four years after Rubi's death, as his obituary notes, the lyricist Vestil went to his grave, also bereft of benefits and recognition—although their *dayegon* continues to resound, albeit in forms that Rubi and Vestil never sought. Does it ultimately matter? "I have written your name in the palm of my hand," an Advent reading from Isaiah says.

But those who crassly exploited the talented *dayegon* musician and lyricist have kindred spirits here: in the cartel that flogged an onerous levy on coconut farmers; in loggers who triggered those flash floods or generals who fiddled with soldiers' skimpy retirement benefits. These are the "Napoleons of crime," Sir Arthur Conan Doyle muses.

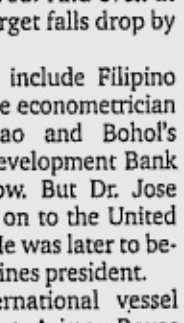
In Charles Dickens 1843 classic "A Christmas Carol," the miser Scrooge dismisses what Vestil and Rubi celebrated as "Humbug!" But Christmas is not tinsel, reindeers, shattered diets, etc. a Bangkok Post feature noted. It is "about a Child...who healed the sick, fed the hungry, showed compassion, taught that one should lay down life for friends—and did so. He also gave answers to basic questions, such as death that confront ordinary mortal like us." That's why it is a "feast of luminous images that hint at all manner of communication."

Christmas' unique grace is that both carol writer and carol thief can say with shepherds and kings: "Let us go to Bethlehem and see what the Lord has made known to us.

E-mail: juan_mercado@pacific.net.ph

The problem is legal logging

THERE'S THE RUB



Conrado de Quiros

I HEARD it in the news at the height of the storm, when Dingalan yielded up corpses on the shore, along the riverbanks and down the slopes of mountains. A congressman proposed the death penalty for illegal loggers. Illegal logging, he said, was clearly a heinous crime. The people who dealt in it deserved nothing less than execution.

Some days later, GMA herself admitted the deaths in Quezon weren't just an act of God but an act of man, and called as well for harsh punishment to be meted out to illegal loggers. What happened in Quezon happened because the trees that sucked the water in the hilltops were gone, cut off by illegal loggers. While at that, she said, the NPA was to blame for that pass. They were among, if the not the chief member, of the growing tribe of illegal loggers in the area. Having lost their funding from abroad and no longer able to compel local officials and businessmen to pay "revolutionary taxes," they had resorted to illegal logging.

Illegal logging was clearly the culprit, Prospero Nograles said also. The problem lay simply in implementing our environmental laws, which are plentiful. If the authorities would only run after the illegal loggers, we would not be having problems with the environment. If only the cops and soldiers would confiscate the illegal logs coming their way, places like Real, Infanta and Dingalan would not have experienced the kind of devastation they just had.

Not at all.

Maybe the NPA has gone into illegal logging for the reasons GMA and Eduardo Ermita cite—that is not improbable. They went into counterfeiting in the 1980s, with disastrous results. But their contribution to the disappearance of the trees in this country, particularly in the Quezon and Aurora areas, is at best marginal. As is the contribution of the illegal loggers who operate in the wake of the legal ones. These are essentially small woodcutters who do not have the equipment to hew down big trees, let alone entire forests. Indeed, who often pay "royalties" (read *tong*) to the legal timber licensees to carry out their fringe *kaingin* and woodcutting activities.

Blaming the illegal loggers for what happened in Dingalan, Real and Infanta is like blaming the pickpockets in Cubao for the crime situation in Metro Manila. Running after the illegal loggers for the ferocious ravaging of this country is like running after the Muslims in Quiapo to solve the problem of piracy in Asia. It is selective perception of mind-boggling proportions. No, it is self-inflicted blindness.

The figures in Dingalan show so. It was the commercial loggers—completely legal ones—who razed down its forests over the past several decades. When logging was temporarily stopped in 1995, after 50 years of relentless tree-cutting, 90 percent of Dingalan's forest cover had already disappeared. It had only 2 percent of its old-growth trees left. It did not help that Dingalan Bay became the site of US-RP war games over several years, an exercise that treated ecological conservation along with imaginary terrorists as the enemy.

As Jerome Ignacio of the IRDF reports, logging in the area was revived in 2000, when Erap's goon in the DENR, Antonio Cerilles, signed a "provisional ECC" entitling Green Circle Properties and Resources to log on 27,851 hectares of land, with an annual allowable cutting volume of 22,645 cubic meters of wood from 447 hectares. This means more than 600 10-wheelers full of logs rumbling down the mountains every year. GCPR is the one company that has been responsible for stripping that place naked and by all the laws of God and man should be haled to court long ago for it.

This contravened, as Ignacio points out, an earlier DENR study that said Dingalan would be shooting itself in the head to cut more trees, though it said this of course in more scientific language. Cerilles' order stood till last week. It was not rescinded despite the furious importuning of folk from Dingalan, who have camped out on the DENR grounds on Visayas Avenue repeatedly, led by the former bishop of the prelature, Julio Labayen, himself. And it was not rescinded until GMA beheld hundreds of bodies. of men, women, and especially children, buried in the mud or floating in the sea. The product of monumental apathy and cynicism.

Illegal loggers? Wrong target, Ma'am. The criminals are perfectly legal ones.

The NPA does not have 10-wheeler trucks that pass with impunity through checkpoints, leaving behind only cigarette money for those manning them. Neither do the indigenous folk who have only their bare shoulders—they don't even have carabaos—to haul firewood to their clearings. What implementation and law enforcement are we talking about? How can you arrest and jail people who have permits to carry out their criminal activities?

The deaths in Dingalan, Real and Infanta were not wrought by the hand of God, they were wrought by the hand of greed. We want to stop these tragedies from happening—and by God it's time we did—we stop kidding ourselves that the problem is illegal loggers. That is not the problem. The problem is the refusal of this government to recognize that this country's ecosystem, which was already fragile to begin with, has become brittle from unrelenting abuse. The problem is a corrupt government, particularly in the form of officials in the DENR, who turn criminality into rationality, who turn law into an instrument of murder. The problem is commercial logging, which remains unabated to this day, its logs raining death on those who live at the foot of the mountains in the howling wind.

The problem is not illegal loggers, it is legal loggers. The bodies of the dead should indict them to hell.

Heroes from Nakar

MALACAÑANG and Congress are trying to contain the horrible damage caused by illegal logging in Aurora, Quezon and Nueva Ecija and set reforms in motion, after the President suspended all logging activities. One immediate step should be to augment the security force in our fast-disappearing forests by increasing the number of forest rangers. As former Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez stressed, the ratio is only about one forest ranger per 25 hectares of forests, and they have no means to move around. Hence the illegal loggers and the impoverished local people they enlist have free run of the forests. The dire lack of manpower to protect our remaining forests provides a good chance for our Congress members to utilize their pork barrel in a meaningful way. Let them augment the forest security forces in their own districts.

* * *

It's obvious that government alone cannot protect our forests, especially if political will is lacking. The communities have to come in and help preserve these resources for posterity. Local officials, the churches, business community, NGOs and schools have to get involved. For if the citizenry is indifferent, then unscrupulous businessmen and their political patrons will continue to have a field day.

* * *

Ennobling was the example of the 10 barangay captains of Gen. Nakar, Quezon, who handcarried to former Environment Secretary Elisea Gozon their letter last April 27, 2004, exposing unabated illegal logging in their town. In attaching their signatures to the petition, they exposed themselves to possible reprisal from powerful vested interests. They are very much today's heroes and new anti-illegal logging czar Victor Corpus should enlist them in his team. The gallant 10 are Ariel Saynes, Samuel Borreo, Domingo Oliva, David M. Prudente, Jose Bobes, Carlito Vargas, Roberto Ritual, Fabian Villareal, Elino Miras and Lorenzo Abordo.

* * *

Justice Artemio Panganiban penned the Dec. 1 Supreme Court decision allowing wholly foreign-owned companies to explore and develop our mining resources. Interestingly, he was one

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

of the five justices who dissented with the majority when the Court ruled in January that foreign participation in the form of "service contracts" was illegal and struck down the Mining Law of 1995 as unconstitutional.

This is not the first time Panganiban started out as a dissenter, only to become the majority ponente by force of argument and logic. Some of the other celebrated cases he convincingly argued were those: 1) declaring the coconut levy to be public funds; 2) reserving the party-list system for the poor and marginalized; 3) reviving criminal charges against Herminio Disini in connection with the billion-dollar Bataan nuclear power plant, and 4) invalidating the Comelec automation of the elections.

* * *

When I first heard the idea of an Asian Union modeled after the European Union, I found it hard to contemplate how our region, with its diverse cultures and political systems and structures, as well as the vast disparities in economic development, could begin to absorb the concept of economic and political integration. If it was tough for Europe, it would be far tougher for Asia.

But miracles do happen. Asia was thrust into such a momentous threshold with the approval in Islamabad, Pakistan, last week by the Association of Asian Parliaments for Peace (AAPP) of Speaker Jose de Venecia's proposal to convert that body into the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA). If the timetable approved by the AAPP is followed, in five years' time the APA could begin to be operational. It hopes to integrate the various parliaments of Asia, from Tokyo to Istanbul, in its first serious experiment with building a common parliament, representing 60 percent of the world's population.

* * *

The triumph of De Venecia's vision could not have come at a more propitious time. For 10 years he fought for this parliamentary assembly at the Southeast Asian level. Each time he and his co-architect, Cebu Rep. Antonio Cuenco, ran into a roadblock called Singapore. At the AAPP level, however, JDV's woes did not last as long. Armed with a feasibility study jointly sponsored by the House of Representatives and the Hanns Seidel Foundation, JDV argued at the recent 5th AAPP General Assembly that "the time is ripe" for Asia to consider economic and political integration. After the assemblies in China in 2002 and in Manila in 2003, the 32 member-parliaments represented in Islamabad fully embraced his vision of integration and approved an interim secretariat to work on the APA from Manila.

* * *

JDV was quick to qualify that integration will be taken step by step, not in quantum leaps, and built according to the Asian model, even as its template will be the European experience. Launched 55 years ago, today the European Union has been expanded to 25 countries with a common currency and a constitution that's in the midst of ratification. The work of "harmonizing Asia's growing interdependence only an Asia-wide legislature, a 'true Asian parliament,' can undertake," he argued. Surprisingly, support for his vision was wide. Pakistani Premier Shaukat Aziz expressed approval when JDV called on him at Islamabad, while the incumbent AAPP president, who succeeded JDV, Pakistani Speaker Chaudhry Amir Hussain, called its approval "a great moment for Asian democracy." Cuenco summed up the RP delegation's sentiment thus, "This is a moral, political and diplomatic victory for the Philippines, for the House of Representatives and for Speaker De Venecia."

The path to APA may be long and arduous. It will need the greatest efforts of Asia's statesmen and visionaries to build it upon the greatest hopes and aspirations of the Asian peoples. But JDV should already feel good being referred to as the "architect and father" of Asian integration.

A night on the desert

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

FEZ—One thing I did not expect of Morocco was the cold weather. As our bus drove into this ancient city last night, I looked out the window to check what people were wearing. To my dismay, everyone was wearing a jacket or coat or the Moroccan jellabah, a long woolen robe with a pointed hood that makes the men look like creatures out of "Star Wars." At this time of year, Morocco can be chilly, especially once the sun sets, and out in the Sahara Desert, it can be downright freezing.

Every school child knows that out on the desert, the days are searing hot and the nights freezing cold. But even when our itinerary indicated that we would be spending a night on the Sahara, sleeping in Berber-style tents, I couldn't quite believe it would be necessary to pack winter clothing, and so made do with pajamas, thick socks and a sweater. Boy, was I wrong.

We left Marrakesh Wednesday, drove southwards following the "Kasbah Trail," spent a night at the magnificent Hotel Berber Palace in Ouarzazate, then drove further south to Erfoud. From this town, we got off the bus and boarded 4x4 vehicles for a bumpy, winding drive through the desert to the sand dunes of Merzouga where our encampment lay, just 15 kms. from the border of Algeria.

Our guide Aziz worried that we would not make it to our camp in time to travel by camel up to the highest dunes to catch what he promised would be a breathtaking sunset. Instead, our dusty convoy made a brief stop on a sandy hillside, just in time to allow us to alight and catch the setting sun wash the nearby dunes a golden amber.

* * *

BY THE TIME we arrived at Merzouga, the wind had turned the air near-freezing. There was hardly time to appreciate the Berber musicians who welcomed us by the entrance to the encampment, all dressed in white and each playing an instrument consisting of rows of brass plates which they shook in syncopated rhythm.

Our tents were low and dark inside. They consisted of heavy woolen rugs held up by wooden posts, and to my relief I found our beds were fairly thick and firm, and came with heavy woolen blankets stretched snugly across the mattress. The tents were arranged in a semi-circle, the open area likewise covered by rugs. At one end lay our roofed dining area where a bonfire mercifully blazed. At the other end was the outhouse, two chemical toilets and an improvised washstand. Welcome to the tourist version of Berber life!

We shuffled our huddled forms to the dining area for dinner, which consisted of round Moroccan bread, lentil soup, couscous and chicken, a *tajine* (the Moroccan cooking implement with a pointed cover that makes for excellent stews) of lamb, potatoes and carrots, and dessert of apples, oranges and the tiny, sweet oranges called clementines. All the while the Berber troupe continued to serenade us, after first putting on a show of music and energetic dancing, which could be called the Berber version of hip hop.

* * *

CHILLED to the bone, most of us headed straight for the tents and our warm beds. Over dinner, I found out that "all the Asians," meaning Zubeida Mustafa from Pakistan, Mohammad Shahjahan from Bangladesh, Ramesh Jaura who is from India but has lived for decades in Germany, and even my roommate Martha Swai from Tanzania, had decided that camping was not for them and elected to sleep in a small hotel about a kilometer away. Not knowing I had an alternative, I had ended up as the only person from a warm climate braving a night on the desert.

Hastily putting on my pajamas, layered over with whatever pieces of clothing I had brought with me, I crawled under the heavy blankets. I wondered if I should take time for my nightly rituals, but once cocooned beneath the blankets, I couldn't summon the will to jump out of them into the cold air.

I would come to regret this later in the night, as I tossed and turned and tried to cover every centimeter of raised blanket that somehow allowed fingers of cold to come creeping in. I also had to pee—desperately. When I couldn't stand it any longer, I said to hell with it and threw the warm covers off me. It was three in the morning, and, armed with a flashlight and a full bladder, I sped across the rug-covered ground. Were those sinister cats lining the path to the outhouse? No, they were Moroccan lamps, which had been lit to guide our way but were now dark, cat-like shapes.

* * *

AT DAWN, I found the other occupants of our tent had all signed up for the camel ride to the highest dunes to catch the sunrise. Ever since a traumatic horse ride in my childhood, I have shunned getting aboard any animal taller than me, but I did want to have a picture taken with a camel.

The camels were simply marvelous, placid and regal, and bore their burdens with a quiet dignity. "Madam from the Philippines, are you afraid of camels?" inquired a Berber guide. "Yes! I am afraid!" I replied, setting him off on a torrent of amused guffaws.

Those of us who stayed behind contented ourselves with viewing the sunrise on a dune beside the encampment, catching our breath as the sunlight sent shadows chasing across the undulating sand. As we shivered in the bitter cold morning air, the same Berber murmured: "You feel cold? But it is only for one night. I have lived here all my life!" That must have been his bid for sympathy, because he later tried to sell us overpriced fossils.

When the camel riders returned, they were just in time for our Berber breakfast of bread and fried Moroccan pancakes (closely resembling chapattis) taken with fragrant honey. We all agreed it was truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience. I have spent a night on the desert, and while I'll never forget it, it's something I have no wish of doing again.

How a nation progresses

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

HOW does a nation progress? Certainly not by turning a blind eye to illegal activities that result in the deaths of thousands of Filipinos. Not only is this not the first time (remember Leyte?) but we all seem to know it won't be the last either. No, a nation doesn't progress when one percent of the population is affluent and the majority is mired in poverty—let me correct that: not just poverty, abject misery. What was that idiotic news item about Filipinos being the happiest people around? Well, y'all this is what it's gotten us: a group living off the fat of the land and the rest dying in misery.

Am I angry? Yes, I am, simply because this latest calamity should not have happened (again, and again and again). Granted we get the government we deserve and our leaders merely reflect us ("*Cristo, maawa ka.*") It's not like we don't know that there is a need for discipline, a re-orientation of values and attitudes, but, and I maintain, unless the leaders show the way it isn't going to happen. Would you say that Lee Kwan Yew put the interests of his nation ahead of his own? Would you describe him as a visionary leader who prodded his nation to progress? Now internalize and ask yourself who among our leaders displayed these qualities?

A friend of mine claims that a nation's progress depends on human behavior (when people's attitudes turn into action), the quality of leadership and the nation's natural resources. We can always excuse ourselves and state that ours are nearly depleted (guess who's to blame), but how to defend that excuse against Israel's achievement of making the desert bloom?

Doesn't it drive you up the wall to think that in a democracy (if you accept that we've got one) "elected leadership reflects what the people themselves habitually practice or tolerate"? And wow, are we gluttons for punishment! My friend further avers that the greatest obstacles to economic progress are non-economic in nature and depends on how people behave. There are attitudes conducive to progress and by the looks of it we ain't got them. My friend quotes Gunnar Myrdal in his "Asian Drama" where "modernizing ideals" are listed. These are preconditions before a developing nation can grow:

Frugality
Diligence
Efficiency
Orderliness
Punctuality
Competitiveness
Scrupulous honesty
Energetic enterprise
Maximum self-reliance
Preparedness for change
Spirit of cooperativeness
Alertness to opportunities
Rational decision-making process
Organic, step-by-step development
Taking the long-term point of view

Being Christians (or so we keep claiming although evidence is mounting that it's one of those "*pakitang tao*" of ours), we're suppose to add godliness and compassion to that list, or so our Catholic education was supposed to imbue in us. So excuse me while I roll my eyes and remember the latest man-made tragedy in Quezon Province and all the poor who perish yearly in those overcrowded sea-going coffins or even the people who live under the bridges along South Superslow-way (among other calamities, despite an atrocious national debt our infrastructure sucks).

And speaking of Christians, in the Nov. 29 issue of BusinessWeek, the Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University in a study discovered that 59 percent of all philanthropic dollars in the US are contributed by families with household incomes of $100,000 or less (i.e. lower and middle-income Americans). For instance, a man who lives on $10,000 a year that he earns from shining shoes has contributed $90,000 over the course of many years to the Free Care Fund at the hospital of Pittsburg. One could hope that some of those dollars from the conversion funds went to charity, but you know, somehow, I doubt it.

Eduardo Lachica has written that, "except for the brief life of the Commonwealth the Philippines didn't have a bureaucracy strong enough to fight off the rent-seekers or able to guide the economy Japanese-style to prosperity." At that time the bureaucracy was run smoothly and effectively by middle-class technocrats with middle-class values which they absorbed while earning their US degrees as *pensionados*. Maybe we should ask the Americans to take some more Filipinos to study in the US. The problem is, will they return or end up "making TNT," as they say?

Well, people, in the end, it's up to us. Should we adhere to the values that Gunnar Myrdal proposed? Do we zealously hold to account public servants who violate these tenets? (How's Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia doing, by the way?)

Let me quote Ben Sanchez's comment here: "Let us not forget the fundamental lesson derived from the economic progress achieved by other developing countries. Economic progress means economic change. And economic change requires changed behavior. Otherwise, a nation perishes."

(P.S. Let's hear it from readers out there. List down the inimical habits we have that are opposed to the modernizing ideals mentioned above. Should keep us laughing till the New Year).

* * *

Comments to bambiharper@yahoo.com

Certified Pinoy

YOUNG BLOOD

Antonette Rocel Delleva

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I DO not know what bothers me more: being a Filipino or not knowing what being Filipino means. It always horrifies me to think that those Fil-Ams, with their distinctive nasal twang and distorted values, could possibly be worthy of being called truly Filipino.

Somewhere I read that one is a certified Filipino if he dips his bread in coffee, cuts up the spaghetti, points at something using his mouth, is never on time and offers a lot of excuses whenever he commits a mistake. But surely, being a Filipino means more than that, doesn't it?

The Filipino has spent the past few hundred years trying to be someone other than himself. Most of us grew up believing that anything of Filipino origin is pedestrian and of poor quality. So here we are going around in our Mossimo shirts, Levis jeans and Nike shoes, strutting around with our Jansport backpacks and Sony Discmans and watching the latest foreign flicks. All the while, our fellow humans in other countries have revised their dictionaries and defined the Filipinos as "domestic helpers." Well, okay, the Oxford Dictionary denied ever having redefined the Filipinos as such. However, the fact that someone out there actually came up with that idea is upsetting enough.

But we have no one to blame but ourselves. If I were to make a list of all our disgusting traits, it would be much longer than the epic of Lam-ang. We spit whenever we feel we like doing it and piss wherever we wish. We take everything personally when attention is called to our errors. We are the masters of procrastination. We are promoters of the "crab mentality." When the Japayuki next door buys a late-model Mercedes Benz, the Hong Kong domestic helper across the street wants to have a Jaguar. We look upon overseas employment as the answer to our economic problems without thinking about the brain drain it is causing. We make a movie about the life of the young actor who passed away, and turn another star's burial into a media circus. We consider the death of a rising young star more relevant than the death of two National Artists. And yes, we made Marcos our president and let every Filipino live through a horrible nightmare.

It is difficult to list down all the things that make the Filipino the world's laughing stock. Parents would rather marry off their daughters to white, straight-nosed foreigners than pass on the dark skin and flat noses of our ancestors.

I have come to realize that defining the Filipino is up to the Filipino himself. Perhaps, it's time for us to start identifying those traits which make us Filipino.

I am Filipino. I use a *kabo* or *tabo* when bathing because, if you really think about it, it saves more water. I dip my bread in juice because it tastes good. I cut up my spaghetti because it's easier to eat it that way. I use my mouth to point at something because I believe it is rude to point with one's finger. I am a Filipino because my hero is Jose Rizal. I am a Filipino because I respect my elders and will never feel comfortable calling them by their first names. I am a Filipino because the bravery of Melchora Aquino and Gabriela Silang runs through my veins. I am a Filipino because Ninoy Aquino said I was worth dying for. I am a Filipino not because I was destined to be one but because I am proud of being one!

Antonette Rocel Delleva, 16, is a high school senior at St. Scholastica's Academy in Bacolod City.

One among millions

Katrina Lim

I AM not an economist. Neither am I a great philosopher. I am a Filipino, a Filipino who has her own views about what is happening around us. I look at the papers and watch the news, and I see nothing but moral decay. I shrink into the background and play observer.

I have a very bleak view about many things. No one gives a damn about anything aside from what bothers or pleases him. Everyone is too preoccupied with one's own concerns to even bother to smile. Last week, I dozed off while waiting in a *motorela*, a public utility vehicle, and I was rudely awakened when a passenger bumped against me as she tried to keep her balance. I was disturbed to note that the woman across me didn't move an inch so that the other passenger could pass with ease. Even a situation as small as that showed me how we have become so selfish and so obsessed with making our lives less burdensome that we don't think of others anymore.

I know that deep inside us we know the reason for the continuing regression of our country. The reason is ourselves. I hear so many Filipinos, myself included, blaming the President, the corruption in government, and even something as absurd as local superstitions for the peso's fall. Each of us thinks that since we are just one among so many millions we won't make a difference. But what we don't get or simply refuse to see is that we are not the only ones relying on the next person; everyone is. And that adds up to a lot of problems.

Look at me, for example. I used not to give even a thought to anything that didn't concern me directly. I was selfish and self-centered (and maybe I still am). There was this veil that kept me from seeing reality, a veil that also protected me against the imperfect world that wasn't mine. I had wrong ideas about generosity and love. I thought giving away a few coins to a beggar was proof enough of my kindness. How wrong could you get?

No one would really care to listen if I say I want to make a difference in this world. That is such a cliché. But I will say it anyway: I want to make a difference.

Now I must confess that sitting inside a restaurant, chatting with friends while picking on my food doesn't feel like so much fun when I look out the window and notice a bunch of haggard-looking street children outside, begging for loose change so that they can buy their next meal. I want to stop criticizing the President and start having faith in our government officials again. I want to smile sincerely at passersby and to feel my heart lift when they return the smile. I want to hear more words of thanksgiving than complaints about having been cheated by the driver, the saleslady or the government official. And remain hopeful that all these wishes will become true someday. Then I will have proved that one Filipino among so many millions does matter.

Katrina Lim, 16, is a high school senior at Oro Christian Grace School in Cagayan de Oro.

The INQUIRER is a member of the
PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE
The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

Hacienda Luisita: a human rights violation

WALA kaming perang pambili ng bigas sa sahod na siyam na piso, bibili pa ba kami ng tear gas *at baril? Kung may baril kami, bakit walang patay sa militar?* (We have no money to buy rice with only P9 in hand, how can we afford to buy tear gas and guns? If we had guns, why was there no military casualty?)

We have heard this from the poor victims of the Nov. 16 Hacienda Luisita Massacre in response to accusations that they were responsible for the deaths of at least seven of their fellow striking workers and sympathizers. In this tragedy, the unjust system of "land ownership monopoly" reared its ugly head once again as the legitimate demands of poverty-stricken workers were met with barbaric attacks by police and military forces.

Over the years, peasants have remained poor and landless while big foreign corporations and the local ruling elite, such as the Aquino-Cojuangcos and Arroyos, continue to monopolize the ownership of vast tracts of land in the country.

In observance of International Human Rights Day on Dec. 10, we remind the Philippine government that, being a signatory to the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UN-UDHR), it is directly accountable for every Filipino life that is lost to brutal killings, hunger, landlessness and other miseries negating the values of human rights and dignity.

Under the Arroyo administration, the incidence of human rights violations has been rising. Among the violations are: its failure to secure the people's socio-economic rights to land, shelter, just wages, job security, education, health and other basic social services; failure to uphold civil liberties as seen in its "no-permit, no-rally policy" and its record of violent dispersal of rallies; its failure to render justice to thousands of human rights victims under the Marcos dictatorship; its record-high attacks against activists; its massive displacement of civilians by its all-out war policy; and its military offensives in the name of the war on terror.

Meanwhile, the highest officials, who swore to serve the people, engage in corruption and plunder in cahoots with the foreign and local elite.

We cry out for justice for the Hacienda Luisita Massacre victims and all human rights victims. We demand that the government stop reducing the UN-UDHR and other human rights instruments into mere scraps of papers.

—REV. FR. ALLAN JOSE ARCEBUCHE, OFM, National Co-Chairperson, Promotion of Church People's Response (PCPR), 879 Edsa, Quezon City 1101

Political demolition job vs Javier

I WAS taken aback by the mad outburst of Juan Jose Rodom T. Fetiza in his letter, "After Javier case, Antique must move on." (PDI, 11/20/04)

It was supposed to be a reaction to the column of Conrado de Quiros, which decried Gov. Salvacion Z. Perez's advice to the people of Antique to respect and accept the "the court's verdict" finding Arturo Pacificador innocent of murdering Evelio Javier.

Fetiza, however, went beyond the issue raised by De Quiros' column to besmirch my name and blame me for Pacificador's acquittal. Fetiza's tirade was unnecessary, baseless and maliciously calculated for political demolition.

Yes, I might have been voted into office to find justice. But our search for justice must always be under the rule of law. There were courts of justice to decide the innocence or guilt of the perpetrators in the murders of Ninoy Aquino and Evelio Javier. Like President Aquino, I never used my power to deny the accused their right to a fair trial or to influence the court's decision. Justice does not depend on who wields power. What Fetiza is asking me to do is to make a travesty of the rule of law and justice.

De Quiros' perception reflects the sentiments of our family and we appreciate him for that. We cannot accept the judgment of acquittal. We dispute the judge's appreciation of the evidence. Like our lawyer and prosecuting fiscal, we believe that the evidence was complete and more than good enough to convict all the accused, including Pacificador in the murder of Evelio. In fact, this was the evidence on which the court based its denial of Pacificador's petition for bail. However, we have to respect the decision for whatever it is worth, because we have to abide by the rule of law. Just as in Ninoy's case, the mastermind escaped conviction for Evelio's murder.

How then did Fetiza arrive at the conclusion that I neglected the case, specifically the gathering of evidence? During the trial, I never heard, much less saw Fetiza showing any interest in the outcome of the trial. How can he claim to be knowledgeable about the case?

Contrary to the allegations of Fetiza, I was in the case every step of the trial, marshaling the witnesses, ensuring that the physical evidence was available, conferring with our lawyer and the prosecuting fiscal, etc.

As to the alleged support of the Zaldivar family for Evelio, Fetiza should ask Gideon Javier. I'm sure Evelio's son has a lot to say about Perez and the Zaldivars.

—REP. EXEQUIEL B. JAVIER, Lone District of Antique

Overseas jobs for surplus Filipino labor

I TOTALLY disagree with Sen. Juan Flavier's view that the cause of our poverty is overpopulation. If the good senator opened his eyes wider, he would see that the monster behind the hunger and poverty of millions of Filipinos is corruption—corruption among our politicians who during election campaigns present themselves as "servants of the people" but once elected behave like "kings," who have all the right to dip into public funds for their personal use.

Wouldn't Flavier be happy to have Filipinos in other countries and, in the future, see the citizens in those countries with Filipino blood in their veins?

As a government official, Flavier should instead help arrest unemployment by working out a program that would help our surplus labor find jobs abroad. For example, he could work to make the processing of the papers of would-be overseas Filipino workers free. And he could as well help that job placements abroad are negotiated government-to-government instead of through agencies.

By sending our surplus labor abroad, unemployment will be reduced, if not totally solved, thus benefiting our economy as well. It is common knowledge that our economy is now being sustained by dollar remittances.

Flavier should beware of the propaganda from the First World countries—particularly the United States—which believe that to control world resources they must control world population.

—PEPOYE CABATINGAN, 023 Rizal St., Gingoog City

Narrow-minded and malicious imputations

IT is extremely narrow-minded and malicious for the Cojuangco family and the government to accuse sympathizers of strikes—such as the one that was held in Hacienda Luisita—of participating just to stir up trouble.

Families of striking workers, students, professionals and others support and join strikes because it is legitimate and just for workers to air their grievances and to show their organized strength when needed. However, workers are subjected to unequal treatment under current laws as exemplified by the violent Hacienda Luisita incident last Nov. 16. It is therefore only right, if not necessary, to give concrete support to legitimate workers' actions. Such support may be expressed by going to the strike area and integrating with the workers.

We thus condemn the violence perpetrated by the Philippine National Police, the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Arroyo administration, and the butchers of Tarlac. Only genuine agrarian reform and national industrialization will bring long-term development to our people—in this the government has failed miserably. Instead of working for the people's welfare—like addressing the demands of the Luisita workers—the government has come up with policies that have directly resulted in high electricity rates, rising gasoline prices and dwindling wages.

One question burns in my mind: When the state answers the legitimate demands of people with bullets, what is left for them to do?

—GIOVANNI A. TAPANG, chair, Samahan ng Nagtataguyod ng Agham at Teknolohiya para sa Sambayanan (Agham), 132B Matahimik St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City

Most 'user-friendly' government agency

EARLIER this year, a Social Weather Stations survey named the Securities and Exchange Commission the "most sincere" government agency (in fighting corruption). From my own experience with the SEC, I can say that it is also the "most user-friendly" government agency. I am particularly impressed with—and grateful to—the Public Assistance team that very willingly and patiently helped with even the most complicated inquiries. To top it all, the SEC premises are neat and orderly: there are no vendors and *istambays* in the lobbies; people actually line up for elevator rides and the comfort rooms, are truly for one's comfort.

I hope that under its new management, the SEC will continue its excellent service to the public.

—PERLA LIMBAGA MANAPOL, 6073 Palma St., Bgy. Poblacion, Makati City

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@ inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Shame as value

THE FRONT PAGES are a picture of the country's ambivalent moral landscape: There are the photos of jubilant members of the Nayan family carrying placards with messages of gratitude and joy; then there are the picture and story of this year's valedictorian of the Philippine Military Academy, 2nd Lt. Rolly Joaquin, who was sent home from the US Army Infantry School at Fort Benning, Georgia after being caught shoplifting. The promising PMA graduate had closed his valedictory address with the promise, "The P2.1 million you spent for each of us will not be wasted." (PDI, 11/24/04)

Mr. Joaquin is so young and already so dishonest and learning fast to become like many of his seniors in the military. Perhaps Mr. Joaquin and Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia can share quarters even for a few weeks if only to share an important sentiment: Shame. More importantly, the two gentlemen can learn to recover lost moral fiber.

The carnage at Hacienda Luisita is shameful and the behavior of some people in its aftermath is disgustingly shameless. Winston Garcia of GSIS shamelessly drives his luxury cars and lives in his luxury houses. Gen. Angelo Reyes was not ashamed to say his money is really his mother's. Bro. Mike Velarde of El Shaddai recently received a P359-million loan from Pag-ibig for a project to build "mansions." He, too, is not ashamed. The list, I am afraid, is rather long.

Whatever happened to the Presidential Commission on Values Formation (PCVF)? May I request the PCVF to get to work right away. Can it address this disturbing phenomenon of shamelessness?

The path out of the fiscal crisis is moral. The President had something good going when she created the PCVF. This is the time to activate it when scandal haunts our national institutions and our leaders. I suggest that the PCVF revive the post-war program of Good Manners and Right Conduct; however, let it be a new program with the following components: Moral Governance and Right Conscience (MGRC). May I likewise suggest we go through this with little or no talk, just good example and genuine sacrifice. Let us begin with the President herself. Let her give up her pork barrel. Use it for the people's basic needs: food, medicine, housing and livelihood. This is morality: to do good and make sacrifices for the people. This is governance: to lead by example, not by words but by deeds! This is right conscience: to listen to God and not to party, family, friends and benefactors. Erap said this at the beginning of his term: *Walang kama-kamag-anak, kai-kaibigan.* If only Erap had kept his word...

—FR. ROBERTO P. REYES, GOMBURZA, Camerino, Cor. Legazpi Sts., Project 4

INQBOX

Dear Readers, Text us your comments, suggestions and views on today's news or how it was delivered. Tell us about the news you are interested in and the things you want improved in your favorite newspaper. Text INQUIRER <section keyword> name/city/message and send to 283 (Smart) or 2207 (Globe). The section keywords are indicated in the logo of each section.

Christmas is just around the corner. Do you feel the spirit of the season? Why or why not?

Yes, I feel the spirit of Christmas! voluntary feelings that begin with our selves. It is sharing, giving... kung ano mayroon ka, ibigay sa iba. Natural instinct to inspire and cheer up those in need, to those with joy, and to those in tears.
—**Antonio Taguinod**, *Antipolo City*

Yes, feel ko spirit of d season after seeing many donations & volunteers 4 d victims of d storms. Truly it's a season of giving & loving.
—**Christine Dalogdog**, *Malaybalay*

Not yet, bcoz of calamities & tragedies, not 2 mention d high cost of living.
—**Bernie Tangunan**, *Cubao, QC*

I can't feel the spirit of christmas bcoz of so many problems dat filipinOs are facing now...
—**Maria Alberta M. Resma**, *Trece Martires*

let's 4get d crisis we face n celebrate d spirit of Xmas by remembering Christ's birth, our Savior dis season.
—**ralph deocos**, *davao city*

Yes. I feel the spirit of Christmas because of the Christmas songs being heard, the christmas lanterns & decor.
—**Liza Lomerez**, *Occ. Mindoro*

I find it hard 2 feel d sprit of Xmas coz everyday seemed 2 loom like biernes santos bcoz of d present crisis.
—**Cherry Vale**, *Davao del Sur*

spiritually yes. economically a big NO NO NO. crisis are all over around us but we shud remember the birth of our Savior.
—**Noel Madrid**, *bulacan*

no. bec. der is apparent increase of ol commodities n recently der are many calamities happening in our country.
—**alex n. ferrer**, *quezon city*

YES, I feel the spirit of Christmas bec its d birth of our Lord JESUS CHRIST.
—**Ma Teresa M. Miranda**, *Manila*

NO. DUE 2 succeeding typhoons, our fellowmen CaN'T have the SPiRIT OF XMAS. I can't imagine celebrating while others are SUFFERING. Let's keep praying.
—**CASIANA Delfin**, *davao*

The season is nowhere. Our pockets are still empty. may kulang. Financial crisis tayo eh. But the spirit is felt 12 months a year. It is an enlightenment. so we should make an effort to feel the spirit of Christmas.
—**Lauro Isorena**, *Pasay City*

4 me i don't feel the spirit of d season bcoz im sad about what happened nowadays, 4 d people who had suffered d typhoon
—**Joyce Nabre**, *Davao City*

I feel d spirit of Christmas bcoz of cool breeze, Christmas carols were playing here, elsewhere as early as November.
—**Sherryl Duenas**, *Guimbal, iloilo*

Yes, because of the Christmas lights on the houses and buildings.
—**Yolanda U. Bambao**, *Manila*

Not yet, you know why? I DON'T HAVE YET MONEY 2 spend 4 even 4 the simple clothes for my 6 children.
—**ALMA DABUET**, *trece martirez city*

Christmas is in the spirit of sharing and giving. I feel the spirit of Christmas when I see kids playing and laughing. When I feel the cool evening breeze... and see beautiful Christmas lights and parols. When I hear Christmas carols... when I am with my family and friends. Christmas is about the spirit of sharing.
—**ana santos**, *diliman, q.c.*

Damangdama ko ang diwa ng Pasko sa mga boluntaryo na nagsasa-kripisyo na makatulong sa mga nasalanta ng bagyo! Ang tunay na diwa ng pasko ay nasa kalooban ng bawat tao, di basta makikita sa anumang garbo, adorno, o anumang aginaldo.
—**Nestor de Veyra**, *Palo, Leyte*

yes, i can feel da spirit of X-mas. coz Life is still wonderfuL despite pains and struggles.
—**sandra mae jorolan**, *davao*

NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074)443-9255
Fax No. (074)443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU
23 Aurora St., Old Albay District
Legazpi City
Tel. No. (052) 820-8402
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

Across the NATION

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

VISAYAS BUREAU
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: inq_cebu@inquirer.com.ph

MINDANAO BUREAU
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. No. (082)244-1770 to 71
Fax No. (082)244-1771
E-mail: inq_davao@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback: inquirer atn name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)*Assistant Editor* **Tony Bergonia**

8 cultists sued for illegal gun possession

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Police yesterday filed charges against eight members of the Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association (PBMA), headed by cult leader Ruben Ecleo Jr., who were allegedly caught carrying high-powered firearms in a checkpoint on Friday.

The complaint of illegal possession of firearms was filed at the Lapulapu City Prosecutor's Office on Mactan Island, Cebu.

They were Nestor Carrol, 34; MSgt. Hercleo Rallestan, 48; Arjulyn Tembrevilla Gallarda, 30; Richard Caballero, 31; Rosalito Oaper, 27; Michael Baylon, 29; Elpidio Amarila, 56 and his cousin Damiano, 37.

Carrol was reportedly a member of the close-in security of Surigao del Norte Rep. Glenda Ecleo, mother of the PBMA "supreme master."

Orlando Salatandre, Ecleo's lawyer, said he could not confirm the report because he had not seen Carrol in person because he was still in Manila.

But Niño Bacolod, Ecleo's brother-in-law, confirmed that Carrol was the congresswoman's close-in bodyguard and a member of the White Eagle Squad, which provides security to PBMA officials.

Carrol and seven others were arrested on Friday in a police checkpoint at Sitio Buaya, Lapulapu. Found inside their van were one M-16 rifle, three baby Armalites, six rifle grenades, several pieces of ammunition, wigs, bonnets and uniforms of the Special Weapons and Tactics.

The police were verifying intelligence reports that the group was out to kill staunch critics of Ecleo, who is facing parricide charges for allegedly killing his wife, Alona Bacolod.

They were Cebu City Mayor Tomas Osmeña, radio broadcaster Bobby Nalzaro and the remaining members of the Bacolod family.

Osmeña earlier blamed Ecleo for the murder of Arbet Sta. Ana-Yongco, private prosecutor in the parricide case against the cult leader.

Five of the eight PBMA members had been implicated in the killing of Yongco last Oct. 11.

One witness in the Yongco murder case tagged Carrol as the one who allegedly drove the motorcycle used as a getaway vehicle of main suspect Michael Favila, another PBMA member.

PO2 Nathaniel Sta. Ana said witnesses had also seen four of these eight PBMA members near his sister's home in Barangay Zapatera a few days before she was killed.

He identified them as Rallestan, Gallarda, Amarila and Caballero.

Sta. Ana said some of these suspects even bought cigarettes at the store owned by Yongco. He said he believed that the group stalked Yongco before killing her.

Truck cargo insurance scam suspects fall in Cavite

CAMP PANTALEON GARCIA, Cavite—A businessman and a secretary of a trucking service company may spend their entire Christmas season behind bars after the Cavite police arrested them early Saturday in their Quezon City office for allegedly making up a hijacking story.

Senior Supt. Roberto Rosales, Cavite police director, identified the suspects as businessman Cresencio Paligutan, 48; his secretary Irene Sipin, 24; driver Romeo Plaza, 44; and truck helper Rosalindo Mancio.

All are residents of Mindanao Avenue, Quezon City.

Rosales said Plaza showed up at the Carmona municipal police station on Friday night and reported that five unidentified armed men flagged down the 10 wheel truck (USJ 227) that he was driving along Governor's Drive in Barangay Mabuhay at around 9 p.m.

The driver told police the gun-wielding men forcefully took the wheels from him and ordered him and his helper Mancio to alight from the vehicle.

Plaza said that they had just gone out of a metal company in General Mariano Alvarez where they picked up several crates of "unknown metal products."

Police help

Acting on his complaint, the Carmona police rushed to the crime scene and sought the help of patrol units stationed near the area.

But as the investigators asked Plaza for specific details, Rosales said the driver suddenly confessed the whole thing was a hoax.

"Before Plaza's admission, our investigators were really baffled because our units in the area did not have any record of the truck going in Cavite. The driver also could not tell where exactly the incident happened and from what company they got the metals," Rosales told the INQUIRER.

Upon further questioning, Plaza and Mancio admitted that their bosses from CP Enterprises, Paligutan and Sipin, ordered them to make up the story so they could claim money from the insurance company.

Rosales said the two likewise revealed that the supposed "hijacked truck" was inside the compound of their office in Quezon City.

Upon confirming the information, Rosales said he called up the Central Police District and arranged a joint operation to apprehend Paligutan and Sipin.

Denial

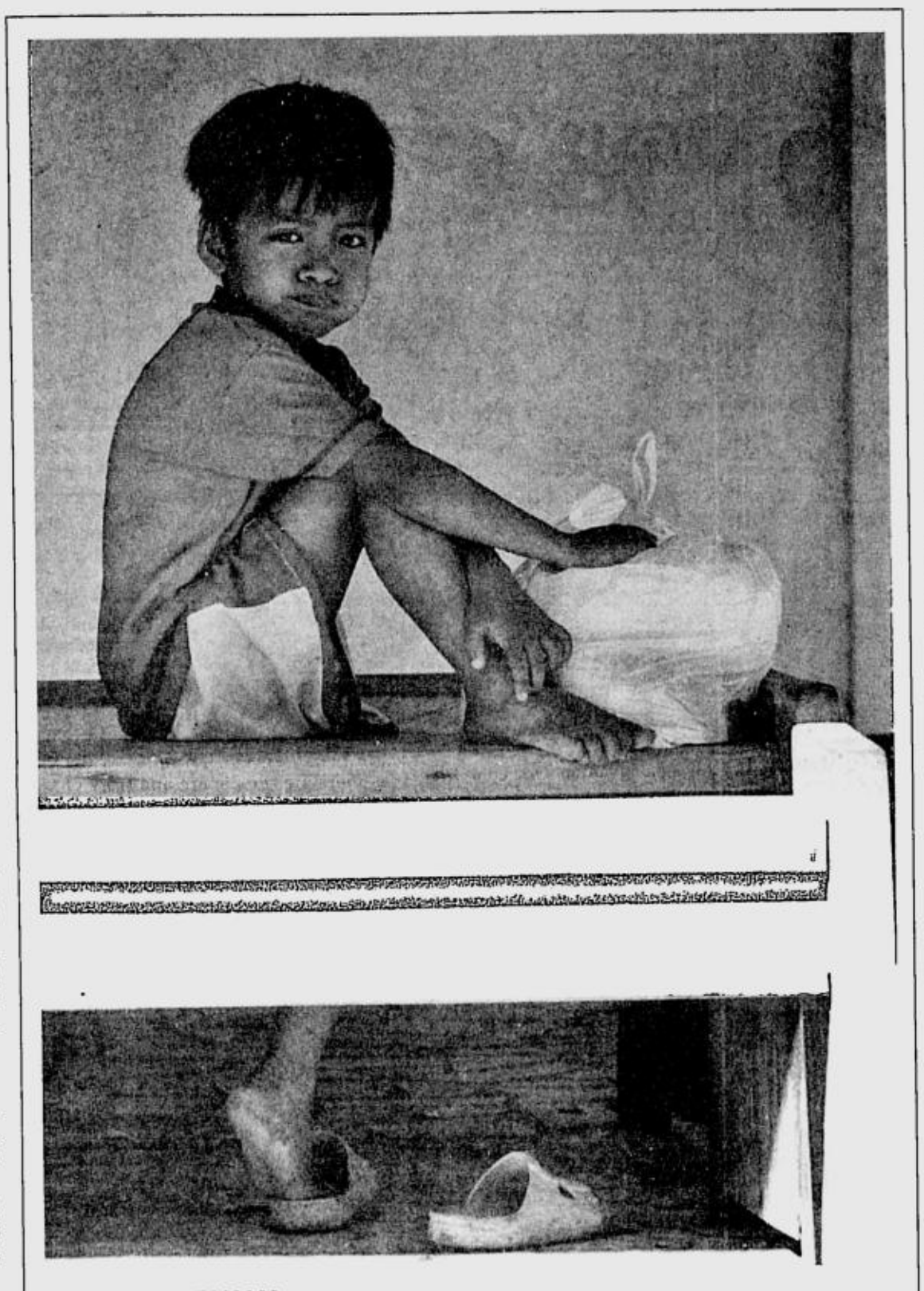
At a news conference held at this camp, Paligutan denied instructing Plaza to dupe police to collect the insurance claim for the truck's cargo, which could amount to millions of pesos.

Police knew that some unscrupulous businessmen had long been engaged in the modus operandi to collect money from insurance corporations.

Rosales said it was impossible for the police to have missed the "entry records" of the truck as they were strictly implementing the "pass card system."

It allows police to record and monitor trucks entering the province.

He said Paligutan's arrest was "a test case and a proof of our theory." *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



PRIZED POSSESSION REM ZAMORA
A child holds on to a bag of relief goods distributed recently to victims of Typhoon "Yoyong" in Gabaldon, Nueva Ecija. Floods and landslides brought by the super typhoon wrought havoc on the lives of hundreds of people in the province and other areas on the typhoon's path.

Competition for space between seaweed farms, ships becoming intense

OZAMIZ CITY—The competition for space in the narrow expanse of Panguil Bay between seaweed growers and ships calling on the local port is reaching an alarming level.

Speaking to reporters here, Capt. Rudy Verba, skipper of a passenger vessel operated by Trans Asia Shipping, said the presence of seaweed farms close to the shipping lanes poses a navigation problem.

Performing docking maneuvers is becoming difficult in an effort to avoid destroying the farms in case these are ran through, Verba explained. He said this was true especially to farms near the port.

He said they were taking extra steps to prevent damage to these farms to avoid a flurry of claims for compensation which can be financially burdensome to the shipping company.

Several weeks ago, a vessel of another shipping company ran through a seaweed farm, sending its owner claiming for damage compensation.

An estimated 3,000 to 4,000 fishermen are engaged in seaweed growing around the coasts of Panguil Bay. Some 1,700 of them are from the city alone.

From near the shores, seaweed farms were driven into the deeper waters following an outbreak of white rot disease, which continues to be a mystery until now.

White rot is hardly observed among the seaweed stocks in the deep waters.

This proliferation of deep-water seaweed farms is threatening to constrict the shipping lane. Many are observed to have already encroached into the lane intended for sea transport, and several others are tended near the seaport.

These are obstructing the movement of passenger and cargo vessels that regularly call on the port here and in Tubod town in Lanao del Norte. In addition, ferryboats operate a route between here and Kolambugan town.

Seaweed growers are clamoring for the setup by the local government of a settlement mechanism where they can lodge their compensation claims for damages wrought by shipping vessels.

They said tending a seaweed farm in the deep waters requires large investments and should not be ignored.

But Verba suggested the proper delineation of the bay into areas for fishery and seaweed growing and lanes for shipping to prevent conflict.

Hemmed in by Misamis Occidental and Lanao del Norte provinces, Panguil Bay's widest expanse is about five kilometers and its deepest portion is 45 meters. *Ryan D. Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

BSP tells public ₱5 coins in circulation are genuine

OZAMIZ CITY—Officials of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) dispelled rumors that the shiny P5 coins now in circulation are fake.

According to Ruben Badon, manager of the BSP unit here, experts at the BSP central office had determined that the samples of coins believed to be counterfeit were actually genuine.

Badon said that upon learning of the confusion, he sent a team of investigators to areas where there are reports of fake 5-peso coins.

He said it was impractical for counterfeiters to fake the 5-peso coins as the cost of making these is higher than their face value.

BSP officials met with local bankers Wednesday to discuss the matter.

Badon expressed confidence the public would now erase their doubts about the coins.

Reports of fake 5-peso coins first broke out in Iligan City early this week upon the warning of local bankers, sending mostly small income earners that usually deal in the coins to avoid it as payment tender.

Meanwhile, videoke operators expressed relief with the BSP explanation as this saves them the cost of reconfiguring their machines as a way of avoiding the supposedly fake 5-peso coins.

Mario Datulayta, a videoke assembler and maintenance technician, said the reconfiguration would cost at least P1,500, which could have been a windfall for him and just a few others who make a living out of the "crooning machine."

Datulayta said from the current five-peso pay per song, videoke operators have planned to reduce it to three pesos, hence requiring a new timing and coin detection device for one-peso coins.

When news of the fake coins broke, videoke operators felt threatened they immediately thought of ways to cope. *Ryan D. Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

40 militiamen quit over pay, schedule

MIDSAYAP, North Cotabato—At least 40 paramilitary troopers resigned en masse due to poor pay and assignments outside their villages here.

Mateo Liboon, 46, leader of a Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit (Cafgu), led about 40 militiamen in turning over their issued Garand and M-14 rifles to the Army's 603rd Infantry Brigade officials.

Each militiaman receives a monthly allowance of P1,800 for a 15-day service as village defender.

"But this is not enough and we were told a pay hike is out of the question," said Liboon, a farmer and father to six children.

"We are deployed in other villages and towns for 15 days and the next 15 days are slated for our farm work," he said.

The sad thing, he said, was he could not leave his post in nearby towns when lawless elements attack his own village.

"Sadly, we are supposed to be village defenders but we could not defend our own barangay when it is harassed because we are deployed somewhere else," he said.

Besides, he added, they could not manage their farm lots due to conflict of schedules.

Col. Franklin del Prado, 6th Infantry Division spokesperson, played down the mass resignation claiming hundreds of interested individuals are out to take their places.

He explained that as paramilitary troopers, Liboon and his group agreed to serve not only their own municipality but the first district of North Cotabato which is composed of five towns.

Liboon said militiamen assigned to remote villages are not provided with travel allowance. "We spend our own money for food and travel," he said. *Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Cops hit for slow pace of probe of reporter's slay

BAGUIO CITY—The National Union of Journalists in the Philippines (NUJP) has asked the Cordillera police to conduct a "speedy and impartial investigation" of the killing of Kalinga journalist Stephen Omaois.

In the new memorandum of agreement they prepared two days after Omaois' body was found in a garbage bin in Tabuk, Kalinga, officials of the NUJP Baguio-Benguet chapter have not only asked the police to protect journalists from threats and violence but also to investigate Omaois' death.

During their first provincial congress on Nov. 3, officials of the NUJP Baguio-Benguet chapter resolved to sign an agreement with the Cordillera police to ensure the protection of journalists from threats and acts of violence.

But when they learned about Omaois' death, NUJP officials said they added another provision in the agreement.

The agreement, which will be signed on Wednesday, is part of the NUJP's campaign to seek justice for Omaois and to protect the welfare of working journalists.

Omaois, 24, a staff writer of the Kalinga-based Guru Press, bore torture marks in the head and body when found in a school compound in Tabuk.

In a statement, Chief Supt. Rowland Albano, Cordillera police director, said the police had invited Aniceto Uera, 42, a pedicab driver whose vehicle was recovered from the crime scene, and Joey Patinglag, whom they described as Omaois' friend.

Arthur Allad-iw, secretary general of NUJP Baguio-Benguet chapter, said they had mobilized writers and members of farmers' organizations in Kalinga to help in the investigation.

Frederick Pangsiw, a radio announcer of the Tabuk-based dzRK, said the local media were not happy with the way the investigation was going.

"The police are working very slowly. Why did they find the body six days after he was abducted?" Pangsiw told the INQUIRER.

Pangsiw said they have been launching signature campaigns in Kalinga not only to seek justice for Omaois but also to condemn his killing.

Inday Espina-Varona, NUJP national chair, said the spate of killings of journalists should also alarm the public.

"Journalists have become a target of violence because they represent a sector where people could bring their complaints," she said.

"From General Santos City to Bicol and Ilocos Norte, journalists are eating death threats for breakfast." *Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Cotabato City killings alarm people, officials

COTABATO CITY—The killing here Sunday night of an Association of Barangay Captains (ABC) president from Talitay, Maguindanao and other previous slayings have brought alarm to residents and some government officials.

Police said Saidamin Midtimbang, head of the ABC in Talitay, died of gunshot wounds in the chest when one of two motorcycle-riding men fired at the victim who was driving a pickup van along Sinsuat Avenue, just in front of Notre Dame of Cotabato for Girls. His wife, seated beside him, was slightly injured in the face.

"Something must be done to stop these killings," said Undersecretary Virgilio Leyretana, chair of the Mindanao Peace and Development Fund.

He asked lawmen and local residents to help each other in pinpointing the people behind the rash of killings, "so they could be arrested and prosecuted."

Mayor Muslimin Sema described the Midtimbang assassination as a "very unfortunate" incident at a time when the victim and family members moved around without bodyguards.

The Midtimbang couple was on their way home to Don Sero Street here when waylaid by two men, believed to be members of a gun-for-hire gang. Mrs. Midtimbang got hold of her husband's pistol and fired back at the suspects, said Sema, who claimed to be related the Midtimbangs of Maguindanao.

The absence of policemen at the crime scene and the unwillingness of witnesses to testify are preventing police from solving the murder.

But newly installed Task Group Cotabato commander Col. George Lomboy was rather blunt in saying that history shows loose firearms continue to proliferate in the city, despite a drive to get rid of them. *Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

WINDFALL REM ZAMORA
An unidentified man seizes the chance to collect fallen logs as Typhoon "Yoyong" swept through Luzon, uncovering extensive destruction of the forests of Aurora and Quezon provinces.

ROUNDUP

E. Samar tourism fair

THE PROVINCE of Eastern Samar will showcase today (Dec. 7) its tourism potential as the tourism department features Leyte and Samar provinces in a tourism and trade exhibit Dec. 4-15. Gov. Ben Evardone urged Eastern Samar people who have migrated to Metro Manila to attend the affair "to appreciate the vast potential of our province in attracting local and international tourists." Evardone in a statement asked his provincemates in Manila to "become marketing agents" for their province. "If you are looking for a vacation site that is not commercial, then the place is Eastern Samar," he said. Eastern Samar, he added, is known for Boracay, the landing of Magellan and the Balangiga Encounter.

4 die in road crash

ECHAGUE, Isabela—Four persons were killed and another was seriously hurt on Nov. 22 when a minibus hit a tricycle on the national highway in Barangay Pangal Norte here. Police said Steven Paul Secolles, 22, tricycle driver; Jun-jun Villaluz, 32; Sonny Dumlao, 28, and Robert Fernandez, 38, all passengers from Barangay Pangal Norte here, died instantly. Taken to a hospital in Santiago City was Jervith Pangaranan, 28. The speeding Nelbusco mini-bus, driven by Melecio Respicio, smashed into the tricycle as it cruised on the slippery highway. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Slay suspects charged

ANGELES CITY—Murder charges were filed recently against two suspects who killed a Briton here on Nov. 6. Police said Robert Goyha and Philip Molina stabbed and killed David Loxton, 62, after he refused to give them money for a drinking binge. The third and principal suspect, Manny Lavenia, 20, was still at large, said Chief Insp. Jaime Villamil, the city police's station 5 commander. "They always pestered my husband for money to buy beer and bar chow. When he didn't give in to their demand, they killed him," Christie Loxton, the victim's wife, told the INQUIRER.
Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Fire hurts 2

ANGELES CITY—Two people were hurt, 20 families were left homeless and a daycare center was gutted in a fire in Barangay Lourdes Sur here on Nov. 25. The cause of the fire, the second to hit the city this month, was unknown. Nena de Mesa, 52, and Criselda Tanjuatco, 9, suffered from burns. Alert residents saved the image of the Santo Entierro, the dead Christ, from the burning village chapel. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Soldier cleared

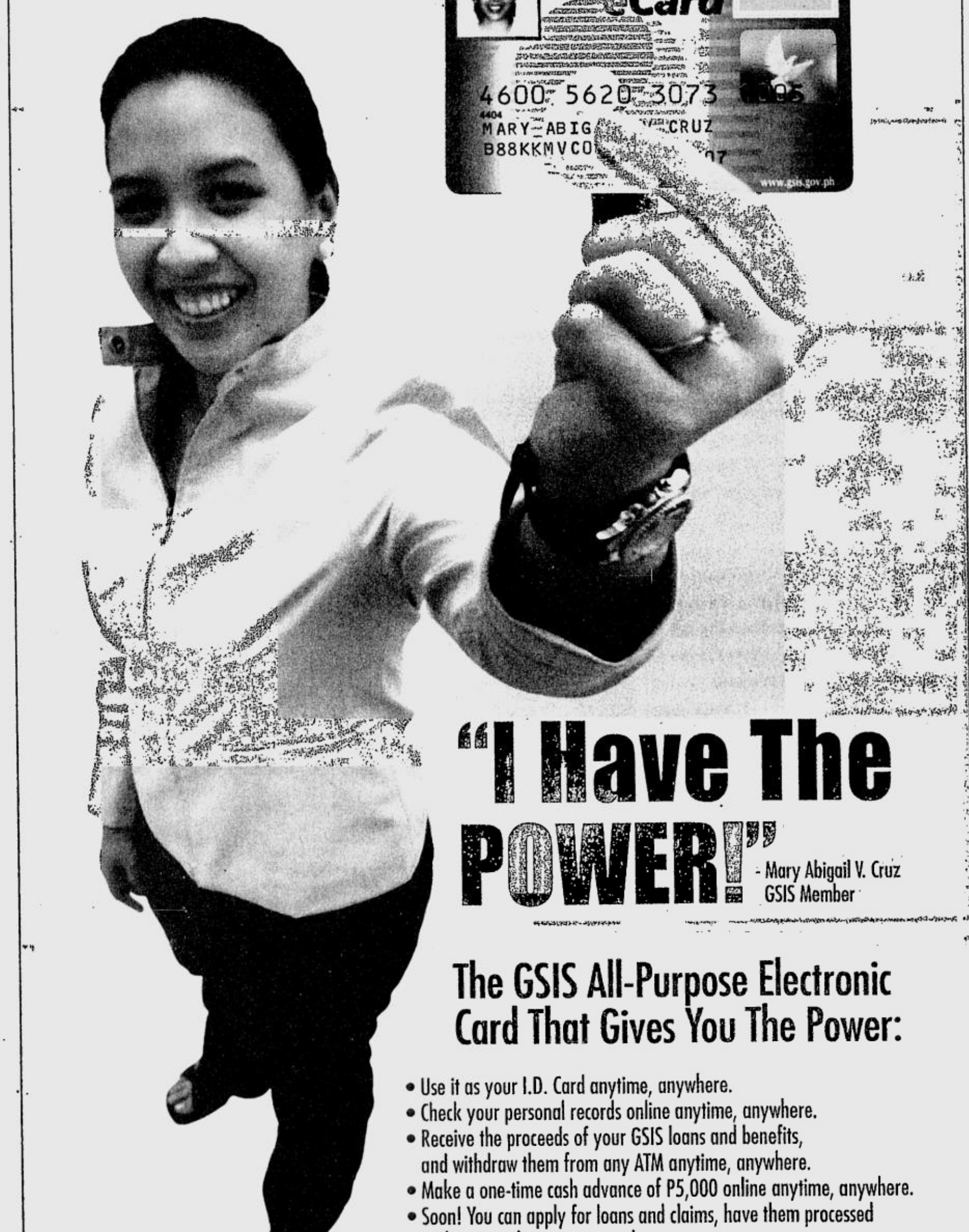
ILAGAN, Isabela—Government prosecutors cleared an Army major and two others of kidnapping charges filed by the police here. Provincial Prosecutor Anthony Foz approved the recommendation of Assistant Prosecutor Dinahlyn Gelacio dismissing the case against Army Maj. Jeremias Cera of the 5th Infantry Division and his companions Marlon Linggayu and Clarita Chua Rivera. Gelacio said the evidence presented by the Isabela police showed no clear evidence that Cera and his co-accused kidnapped businesswoman Lorenza Vergeniza in Mallig town on May 31. It said Vergeniza herself had declared that it was Cera who negotiated for her release. Vergeniza was released by her abductors on July 4 in Kalinga.
Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

5 estafa suspects held

STA. CRUZ, Laguna—Police arrested five suspects for estafa during separate operations in Nov. 23-25 in various parts of Laguna. Provincial police director Senior Supt. Jaime Calungsod Jr. identified the suspects as Daisy D. Serneo, 41, of Barangay San Vicente, San Pedro; Nicanor N. Yance, 72, of Barangay Bungkol, Magdalena; Edilberto T. Pabico, 54, of Barangay Wawa, Lumban; Frederick Velasco, 33, of Barangay Balayhangin, Calauan, and Alberto A. Icuspit, 40, of Golden City Subdivision, Sta. Rosa City. The suspects are now detained pending the filing of estafa charges in their respective municipal courts
Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Traffic cop killed

BIÑAN, Laguna—A police officer assigned to the Traffic Management Group of the Calabarzon Police Office was found dead inside a residence in Phase 6, San Jose Village III, Barangay Malamig here on Nov. 24. Provincial police director Senior Supt. Jaime Calungsod Jr. said policemen found the body of PO2 Edmundo B. Austria, 38, of Pilar Village, Las Piñas City, with a bullet wound in the right side of his head. The victim was rushed to the St. James Hospital in Cabuyao where he was pronounced dead before treatment
Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau



UN advice to gov'ts: Reduce disaster risk, don't depend on aid

GENEVA—Governments must reduce the risk of natural hazards causing a disaster rather than focusing on emergency aid afterward, a UN expert said as the Philippines became this year's latest storm victim.

Megacities in the developing world, like Shanghai and Istanbul, need particular protection from typhoons and earthquakes, according to Salvano Briceno, director of the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction secretariat.

"The disaster is not natural. What is natural is the hazard and we cannot avoid it, but the disaster can be greatly reduced if we focus on reducing vulnerability and risk," Briceno told AFP.

Extreme weather triggered two-thirds of all disasters in the world over the past decade, according to the United Nations which has included disaster reduction for the first time on the agenda of its annual climate change conference in Buenos Aires that opens on Monday.

The need for preemptive action to prevent natural hazards from turning into tragedies will also top the bill when governments meet again in Kobe, Japan, next month for the once-a-decade World Conference on Disaster Reduction.

"All governments . . . need to give more resources to preventing and reducing the risk rather than just coming along after every disaster to provide relief, which is just getting bigger and bigger," Briceno said.

The international community donates some $6 billion a year to provide emergency aid, such as food, medical treatment and shelter, for the millions of victims of floods, earthquakes and volcanoes, but only a fraction of this money goes toward awareness-raising measures.

"If we could dedicate 10 percent of the amount to help governments at the national and local level ... to invest in prevention, that would be a great achievement," the UN expert said.

Educating people

Briceno urged countries to educate people on how to protect themselves in a storm or build a house that was less likely to be blown away.

The authorities should also think about flood or landslide potential when expanding towns and cities, as well as the likelihood of fire when planting forests. They must also learn how to strengthen coastlines, such as by planting mangroves.

But reducing the risk of a disaster involves many factors—unlike emergency relief that merely requires governments to donate money.

"You also have nice recognition on television that you are helping, so politically (emergency aid) sells well," the UN expert said.

"The problem is that governments are not really helping because they are just providing a very quick bandaid approach to something that needs much more careful attention in the longer-term."

The United States, Japan and other rich countries that are prone to hurricanes and earthquakes already have well-established early warning systems, tough building standards and public awareness campaigns in place to reduce the risk of disaster.

Developing nations, including China, Iran, India and Bangladesh, are beginning to follow suit, but many countries remain ill-prepared.

The Philippines, where a powerful typhoon last week left more than a thousand people dead and missing, was well-equipped to tackle volcanoes but remained vulnerable to flooding and landslides, Briceno in the interview on Friday. *AFP*

SACKS of spoiled rice litter the warehouse of a cooperative in typhoon-hit Infanta town in Quezon. DELFIN T. MALLARI JR./PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Gov't needs more than ₱350M for rehab work

From page A1

the devastated towns of Infanta, Real and General Nakar who were afraid to return home.

And with the rains still pouring there, Soliman said the areas were still not safe to live in.

"So we really need to look at resettlement which means building houses, infrastructure and basic social services," she said.

The current budget for disasters amounts to P700 million, half of which is allocated for relief operations, she said.

Soliman said officials were looking at other sources of funds for rehabilitation and meetings were now being held with the United Nations.

She said that foreign donations to typhoon victims had so reached $700,000 to $800,000.

An estimated 1,300 people were believed to have been killed in the series of disasters, the deadliest floods to hit the country since 5,000 people died in the Ormoc deluge in 1991.

Environmental destruction

In Infanta, some homeless families have abandoned relief centers owing to lack of food there—the same problem that stalked other residents of Quezon, Aurora and Nueva Ecija—despite the perceived outpouring of aid from local and international donors.

Capt. Butch Guevara, an Air Force pilot who had been through major rescue operations since 1992, said that although the Ormoc tragedy killed more people, the environmental destruction brought about by the recent typhoons was the worst "in history."

Foreign countries continued to pour in financial aid.

"It is distressing to see the damage and suffering this disaster has caused," said New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark, whose government had allocated $200,000 for relief operations.

Fighting over food

The International Red Cross has aired an appeal for 2 million Swiss francs and has deployed disaster response teams to rescue and evacuate families and offer psychosocial support. The British Red Cross aired an appeal for help for the victims and the European Commission said yesterday it would provide 800,000 euros.

To calm typhoon victims fighting over relief goods in Infanta, the nongovernment organization World Vision will set up soup kitchens in the area in the coming days.

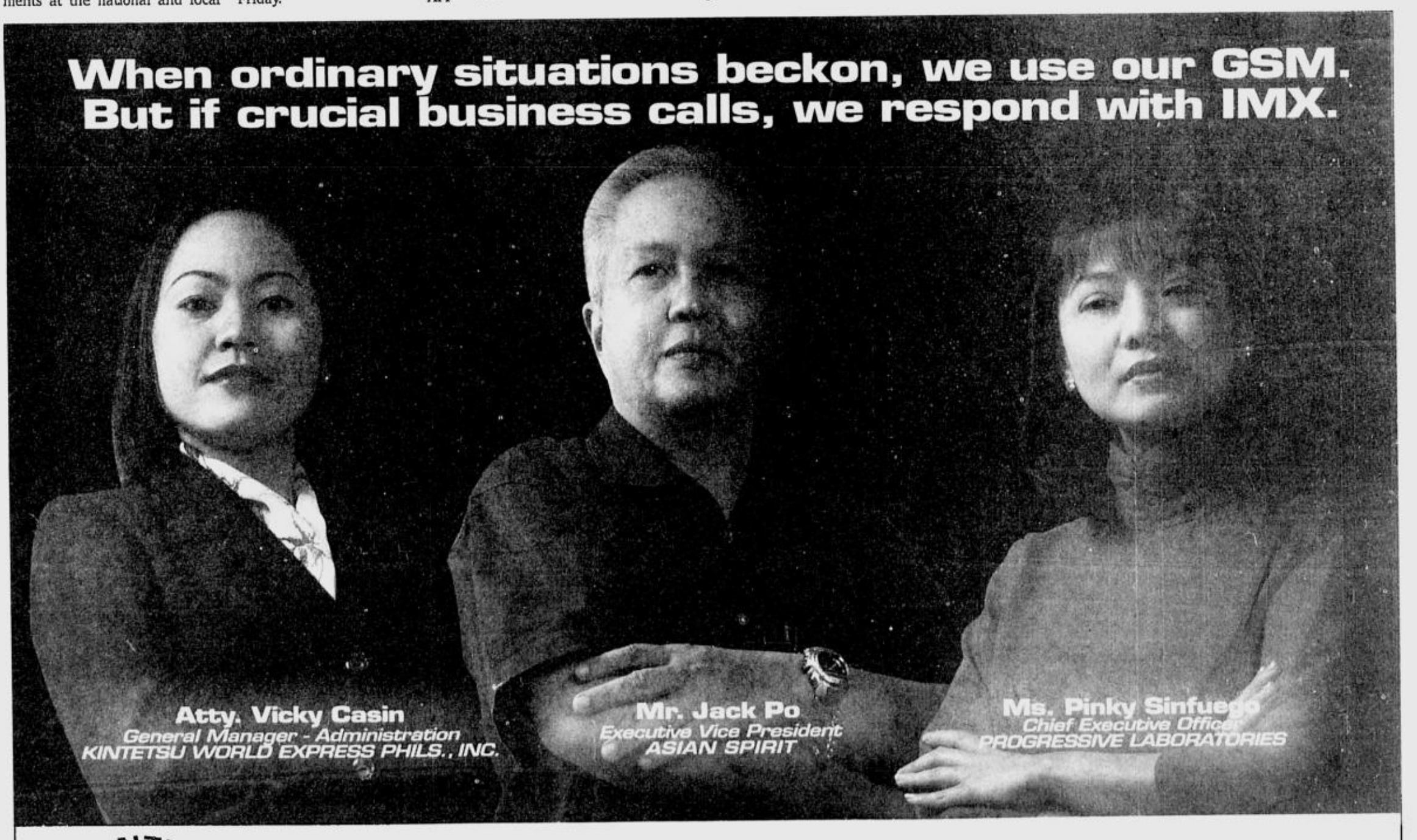
"They've been hungry for days, which is why they are fighting over the relief goods," World Vision's Dabs Liban said in a phone interview.

World Vision has also begun bringing in over P35 million worth of relief goods for 21,500 families affected by the typhoons.

Each relief package from World Vision contains 25 kilos or half a sack of rice, 4 liters of water, a big can of biscuits, canned goods, noodles, flashlights and a blanket. Each package is worth P1,650 and is expected to last for seven to 10 days.

Pitching in, Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. yesterday approved the release of P3,000 as emergency economic assistance to court employees affected by Tropical Depression "Winnie" and Typhoon "Yoyong." *With reports from Leila B. Salaverria, TJ Burgonio and Philip Tubeza*

When ordinary situations beckon, we use our GSM. But if crucial business calls, we respond with IMX.



MOBILE INTERNET 365 DAYS UNLIMITED SERVICE TALK • TEXT

In business, instant and constant communication with your network is critical. That's why instead of GSM phones alone, top decision-makers rely on IMX. Because IMX connects you at a fraction of a second with push-to-talk and gives you instant internet access wherever, whenever. And if you want to take it easy, there's text messaging. What's more, you can enjoy all these incredible services for 365 days – unlimited! Talk about unlimited power. Call or see us today and let your business ring loud and clear.

For a free demo, call (02) 786 2222

When it's mission critical

NEXT MOBILE BUSINESS CENTERS

ORTIGAS
1B/F Orient Square Bldg
Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center,
Pasig City
Tel. (02) 786 2222

MANILA
G/F Next Mobile Bldg.
2244 España Avenue,
Sampaloc, Manila
Tel. (02) 786 2222

MAKATI
G/F JAKA Bldg
6780 Ayala Avenue.,
Makati City
Tel. (02) 786 2222

CALAMBA
Unit 1
G/F Anderson Building II
Old National Hi-way,
Parian, Calamba, Laguna
Tel (049) 545 0584

BACOOR
Unit 1
G/F Hentaga Building
290 D1 Aguinaldo Hi-way
Niog, Bacoor, Cavite
Tel (046) 417 7801

ANGELES
G/F PG Pawnshop Bldg.,
McArthur Hi-way cor. AM
Flores St., Balibago,
Angeles City
Tel. (045) 892 4091

BATANGAS (SOUTHCOM)
G/F Caedo Comm'l Ctr.
Barangay Kumintang,
Batangas City
Tel. (043) 300 0116

MICROSHOP Subic
Building 744 Labitan Road,
Subic Bay, Zambales
(across Subic Int'l Hotel)
Tel. (047) 252 3430, 252 3432

Wireless SM Megamall Cyberzone
SM Megamall, Level 4 Bldg. B, SM
Megamall EDSA, Mandaluyong City
Tel (02) 635 0471

Wireless Shangri-La
Level 5 Shangri-la Plaza Mall,
Mandaluyong City
Tel (02) 635 0472

Wireless SM City Manila
Level 4 SM City Manila, Arroceros
cor San Marcelino, Ermita, Manila
Tel (02) 525 7624

Wireless SM Bacoor
SM Bacoor
Bacoor Cavite
Tel. (046) 417 0025

Easy Phone Marketing
Centerpoint Bldg
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. (02) 638 1111

5th Ave. Electronic City
Alabang Town Center
Level 3, Expansion Center
Alabang, Muntinlupa

Hello
SM Sucat
Cinema Level
Sucat, Parañaque

Hello
SM Bicutan
Cinema Level
Bicutan, Parañaque

ADI Telecom
SM Baguio, Level 3
Baguio City
Tel (074) 619 7804

www.imx.ph

imx by NEXT MOBILE

DENR defends log firms

From page A1

Bunye said in a statement.

Licensed loggers, along with the illegal ones, have been blamed for the massive flooding and landslides that claimed the lives of more than a thousand people in Aurora, Quezon and Nueva Ecija.

"All allegations of logging violations will be properly investigated and we assure the public that the government will be relentless and unforgiving in pinning down those found liable for violations of law," Bunye said.

The Philippine National Police has been placed on full alert against violators of the indefinite logging suspension.

The Multi-Sectoral Action Group, a pro-environment group in Aurora and Quezon, has called on the President to cancel the permits of at least nine big logging firms operating in the two provinces. "The logging activities of these legitimate companies were the main reasons why the mountains are bald," the MSAG said Sunday.

But Defensor said that without the licensed tree cutters, forest lands were more vulnerable to illegal loggers because private companies "protect" their areas the way government-employed rangers patrol forest reserves.

SEN. Jamby Madrigal inspects some of the illegally cut logs that drifted to Pampanga and were turned into lumber by Nueva Ecija-based woodcutters in Arayat town.

Don't blame us

Asked to comment on calls for the cancellation of logging permits, he said: "If that's really the sentiment of the local residents ... But when time comes after the logging concessions that used to guard the land have left and the forest is eventually denuded, don't blame us."

Defensor reiterated that the residential areas destroyed by landslides and flash floods at the height of Tropical Depression "Winnie" were far removed from the logging concession areas.

He said the logging operator nearest to any of the affected towns was Green Circle Properties and Resources, whose area covers Dingalan in Aurora and General Nakar in Quezon. But then he had already suspended Green Circle's license ahead of Malacañang's suspension order on all logging activities nationwide.

3 types of permits

Logging permits come in three forms: the timber license agreement (TLA), which was issued during the Marcos administration; integrated forest management agreement (Ifma), and socialized integrated forest management agreement (Sifma). Ifmas and Sifmas began replacing the TLAs during the Aquino administration. *(See "In The Know" at right.)*

Data released yesterday by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources showed that the government was still honoring 14 TLAs nationwide, the last of which will expire in 2011. The TLAs cover 566,589 hectares.

Defensor said the investigation he ordered last week on the extent of illegal logging in Aurora, Quezon and Nueva Ecija would include a review of the operations of the logging concessionaires in the provinces.

The eight-member probe team that he formed will check whether the logging firms had committed acts tantamount to illegal logging: Either they had exceeded their "allowable cut" of trees or had encroached on protected areas.

Asked to comment on the perception that license holders merely used their permits as a front for illegal logging, he replied: "You cannot absolutely deny that, that's why we are validating now."

"But an Ifma is itself a business arrangement, a contract with the government. Why would a businessman risk losing it by going into illegal logging?" he said.

List of firms, owners

Of the 14 TLAs, three were issued to companies operating in Aurora and Quezon.

They are Pacific Timber Export Corp. owned by Fernando Lu (covering Dinapigue, Isabela and Dilasag, Aurora); Verdant Agroforest Development Corp. owned by Jimmy Ng (Dipaculao, Aurora, and General Nakar, Quezon), and Inter-Pacific Forest Resources Corp., formerly United Timber Licenses Inc., (also in Dipaculao and General Nakar, owner's name was not supplied).

There were a total of 200 Ifmas issued nationwide covering 219,523 ha. Of these, seven are in Aurora, four in Quezon and one in Nueva Ecija, covering 207,887 ha.

In Aurora, there are Industries Development Corp. (owned by Joselito Ong Jr.); Pacific Timber Export Corp (Fernando Lu); San Roque Sawmill Corp. (Ching Sen Ben); Benson Realty & Development Corp. (Ben Ching); Industries Development Corp. (Joselito Ong); RCC Timber Co. Inc. (Roberto Hallare), and Toplite Lumber (Johnny Chua).

In Quezon, the Ifma holders are Guanzon Lime Development Corp. (owned by Antonio Guanzon); Tecombro Agri Development Corp.; International Hardwood Veneer Corp. of the Philippines (Carolina Young), and Sta. Cecilia Sawmills.

The lone Ifma holder in Nueva Ecija is Orientville Development Corp., the DENR said.

At least 50,000 hectares

The DENR also disclosed that 1,635 Sifmas had been issued nationwide covering 41,872 ha.

Compared with Ifmas that apply to land areas of 50,000 ha and bigger, Sifmas are for areas below 50,000 ha, according to Defensor.

Sifmas in Aurora had been issued to Nora Querijero, Roger Querijero, Rolly Andal, Franz Batoon, Rizaldy Cabreros, Rodolfo Mataba, Rolando Cabanding and the Ma. Aurora Alumni Association. The Sifmas with Nora and Roger Querijero had already been canceled.

Quezon-based Sifma holders include the Quezon Agroforest Development Foundation, People's Initiative for Forest Protection, Nakar Rainforest Development Foundation, Viva Shipping Lines Inc., Sto. Domingo Shipping Lines Inc., CDC Group International Corp., Katanawan CENR Employees Association Inc. and Bondoc Peninsula Livestock Farm and Development Inc.

At the House of Representatives, Majority Leader Prospero Nograles said a Mindanao logging firm had been wantonly cutting down trees in some 26,000 ha of forests in the boundary of Lanao del Sur and Bukidnon.

Mindanao

Nograles asked Defensor to investigate the logging activities of Timber Industries of the Philippines (Tipi), which operates in forest areas near the towns of Wao and Bumbaran.

"According to my information, they cut trees even at nighttime as if there's no tomorrow. God forbid but with this rate of logging activities in this area, the tragedy that struck the provinces of Quezon, Aurora and Nueva Ecija is not a distant reality in this particular part of Mindanao," he said.

Nograles said Tipi appeared not to be complying with the provisions of its TLA because it had been cutting down trees beyond the limits set by the government.

He said he received reports that Tipi had been transporting two to three 10-wheel trucks of timber daily with a market value of P300,000 to P400,000 per truck from the forest areas of Wao and Bumbaran.

This was apart from the timber being cut by illegal loggers, who supply wood to various lumber yards in Davao, Cagayan de Oro and other cities in Mindanao.

Nograles said the 26,083-ha Wao-Bumbaran timberland was considered the "crown jewel" of Southern Philippines. *With reports from Juliet Labog-Javellana and Christian V. Esguerra*

IN THE KNOW

Legal means for logging and forestry businesses:

Timber License Agreement refers to a privilege granted by the government to a person to use forest resources, with the exclusive right to possess and occupy them and the corresponding obligation to develop, protect and rehabilitate them according to the conditions of the agreement.

Integrated Forest Management Agreement is a production-sharing contract entered into by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and a qualified applicant that grants the latter the exclusive right to develop, manage, protect and utilize a specified area of forest land and forest resource for 25 years, renewable by another 25-year period, subject to conditions.

Special Private Land Timber Permit is a permit issued to a landowner specifically for the cutting, gathering and utilization of premium hardwood species, including Benguet pine, both planted and naturally grown trees.

Private Land Timber Permit is issued to a landowner for the cutting, gathering and utilization of naturally grown trees in private lands.

Forest Land Grazing Management Agreement is a production sharing agreement between a qualified person, association and/or corporation and the government to develop, manage and utilize grazing lands.

Socialized Industrial Forest Management Agreement is a contract between a natural or juridical person and the DENR, which grants the former the right to develop, utilize and manage a small tract of forest land consistent with the principle of sustainable development. ***PDI Research***

SOURCES: DENR, FMB AND FASPO WEBSITES

'Mercy ship' conks out

From page A1

of lights of Grandstar 2, a passing ship, owned by Quezon Rep. Rafael Nantes, which was ferrying calamity victims from Real to Mauban, came to the succor of the stricken roll-on roll-off vessel.

Brave fisherman

But the terror was not over.

While one of the boatmen was tying the rope hurled from the ship, a huge wave slammed the boat, damaging its outrigger.

One of the volunteers, Ronaldo Almeida, a fish warden from Atimonan, dove into the sea and lashed the broken outrigger.

The ship towed the distressed Grandstar 2 back to Real.

The volunteers later hitched a ride on the Philippine Navy ship DF 317 for their trip to Mauban, arriving at their destination still shaken by their ordeal.

Organized by Quezon Rep. Proceso Alcala, the mission included volunteer rescuers, environmentalists, radio enthusiasts, students and the religious.

Volunteers of Cagayan

The rescue ship was owned by Philippine Nippon Kyoie Corp. It was also carrying sick and injured calamity victims who urgently need hospitalization.

Yoyong, the last of four successive cyclones to hit the country, could have also killed many people in Cagayan, but thanks to 35 volunteers, not one life was lost despite the flooding in 146 villages.

The volunteers, composed of policemen, workers and residents, put aside personal cares and waded through rising waters to rescue villagers who refused to leave their carabaos or whatever little possessions they had in their flooded homes.

The volunteers belonged to the Rescue 29 group and other teams of the Provincial Disaster and Coordinating Council (PDCC).

Using bamboo rafts and fiberglass boats, they crossed the roaring Cagayan River to rescue seven families in a river islet called Quemoy.

Another team responded to the appeal of 300 villagers stranded on the Abusag Bridge in Baggao town, while others moved 2,004 families in 14 villages in Alcala town to safer ground.

The volunteer teams had undergone training for rescue operations during floods, fires and earthquakes.

In some flooded villages in Quezon, the concern among rescuers and survivors was snake bites from deadly cobras.

"The Philippine cobra reared its head because they were disturbed," Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman said. "They (residents) found that cobras are all over General Nakar now."

Health authorities have dispatched a special team to the town with anti-venom serum, she said.

Soliman said the 718 people declared missing in the wake of the cyclones were most likely dead.

This would bring the provisional death toll to about 1,300, making the cluster of cyclones the worst to hit the country in 13 years. *With a report from Christine O. Avendaño*

No need for mass burials, says WHO official

IT IS the living that are the most likely sources of epidemics so no need for mass burials of those who perished in the recent typhoons.

"The bodies of people who die in floods and other natural disasters do not normally pose a risk of infection and there is no need to dispose of them in mass graves," the World Health Organization said yesterday, following reports that typhoon victims in ravaged areas were being hurriedly buried.

"There is no need for such measures," said Dr. Arturo Pesigan, head of WHO's Emergency and Humanitarian Action. "Survivors, and not the dead, are more likely to be the source of disease outbreaks unless an effective strategy focused on primary health care for the survivors and their families is prioritized, including the provision of safe water and food."

Pesigan said the identification of their loved ones and the process of grieving were essential for the prompt recovery of survivors from severe stress caused by natural disasters and personal losses.

"The inability to mourn a relative can contribute to the many potential health problems associated with disasters and the difficult rehabilitation process that follows," he said.

The WHO has earmarked $20,000 to help assess the urgent health needs in affected areas and said it is on standby to supply medical kits if needed.

Palawan: No logging, mining ...

From page A1

banking on tourism—even if it means forfeiting Palawan's image of rustic isolation.

The 14,896-square kilometer province has strict environmental regulations and its capital city of Puerto Princesa has an ordinance banning "destructive development."

"I made a commitment not to have destructive development," says Mayor Edgardo Hagedorn. "That's in line with our focus on sustainable development—no factories, no mining, no logging."

Illegal logging and the destruction of natural forests have been blamed for the high death toll from storms that hit the country beginning late last month and resulted in landslides and floods which left more than a thousand people dead and missing in eastern Luzon.

In the aftermath of the tragedy, President Macapagal-Arroyo suspended all commercial logging and there have been calls for people in affected areas to be weaned off forest-related means of livelihood.

Palawan concentrates on tourism, agriculture and fisheries for its income and the province has much to offer tourists, both foreign and local, from the richest to those from the lower-middle class.

Hollywood stars

The wealthy and powerful, including Hollywood stars like Mariah Carey, Robert De Niro and Naomi Campbell, stay at exclusive, well-secured Palawan islands, accessible mostly through charter planes.

More modest tour groups visit the famed crocodile farm, a village populated by Vietnamese boat people and a national park with an awe-inspiring underground river.

Palawan has diverse flora and fauna, hot springs and waterfalls that have yet to be fully tapped for tourism. A marine sanctuary covering a giant coral reef and an island reserve stocked with African animals are also underutilized, says Janice Espina of 1700 Islands Travel and Tours.

It has largely been spared the brunt of the numerous typhoons and storms that hit the Philippines each year.

But the province's isolation makes Palawan's best attractions difficult to reach. Many of the best beaches, resorts, dive spots and tourist sites can be visited only by lengthy road or boat trips.

Sleepy town

Espina says the visitors may be intimidated by the rough roads and modest accommodations. Night life is subdued and even the capital Puerto Princesa has the atmosphere of a sleepy town.

There is a shortage of luxury hotel rooms and many parts of the island suffer from irregular electrical supply. Upper-class resorts install their own generators.

Tourism in Palawan suffered a major blow in May 2001 when Abu Sayyaf bandits, allegedly linked to the al-Qaida terror network, abducted 20 people, including three American tourists, from an island resort off Puerto Princesa. Two of the Americans died in Abu Sayyaf captivity, an incident which still casts a pall over tourism to the area.

Figures from the provincial tourism office show that the number of domestic and international visitors fell 8 percent to 117,516 in 2001 compared to the previous year. Visitor arrivals fell a further 3 percent to 113,829 in 2002.

Foreign arrivals were hardest hit. From 31,772 overseas visitors in 2000, the number fell to 30,808 in 2001 and dropped to 20,555 in 2002.

Elaine Leonor, general manager of Hotel Fleuris, one of Palawan's leading establishments, says that after the kidnapping there were days of zero occupancy.

"We almost closed the hotel. But then we recovered in two years," she says.

More visitors

As memories of the kidnapping faded, visitors rose 25 percent to 142,238 last year. Foreign arrivals were also up to 22,601 by 2003.

Provincial tourism officer Maribel Buni says tourist arrivals should double in five to 10 years.

Such figures may look small compared to the thousands of visitors drawn each year to Indonesia's Bali or Phuket in Thailand, but officials and local tourism leaders hope improved infrastructure will boost numbers.

"It might not be that big but in the long run, once the infrastructure is set up, we will get more tourists coming," Hagedorn says.

Among the local government's priorities are new highways that will speed up travel to tourist sites and improved airports in different parts of the island that can take more flights and larger aircraft.

A convention center has been built in Puerto Princesa at the cost of P200 million in hopes of bringing in regional conferences and sporting events.

"We're still not ready for a huge boom (in tourists). I think that's attainable in five years," says Leonor. *AFP*

Revive staggered hours–MMDA

By Margaux C. Ortiz

STAGGERED working hours for government and private employees could solve the worsening holiday traffic, according to Metropolitan Manila Development Authority officials.

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando yesterday met with representatives of the labor sector and government agencies to discuss the revival of the staggered working time scheme to reduce the volume of vehicles in the roads, especially during rush hour.

"According to the experience of the MMDA, a two-hour time difference between the government and private employees would be effective in solving the Christmas traffic," Fernando said.

Under the proposed scheme, government workers would be required to work from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., while private employees would be asked to report from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Fernando said that they are hoping to implement the scheme on Dec. 13 until Jan. 6.

"If found effective, we could even make the scheme permanent," Fernando said, adding that the staggered working hours would remove 30 percent of the workforce from the road.

There are around two to three million private employees and 500,000 government workers in Metro Manila.

Fernando said the agency would meet with officials of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Civil Service Commission (CSC), Employers Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP), Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP), representatives from the labor sector and other agencies to discuss the features and effects of the proposed scheme.

DOLE Bureau of Working Conditions Director Tess Manansala said they welcomed the MMDA's proposal to adjust the public's working hours to help ease up traffic during the Christmas season.

"This is actually a laudable move to help solve the perennial traffic problem," Manansala told reporters after an initial meeting with MMDA officials yesterday.

She added, "The labor code does not indicate that employees go to work at exactly 8 a.m."

Manansala, however, said the scheme could affect companies with three shifts and collective bargaining agreements which indicate the employees' working time.

ECOP president Rene Soriano said the scheme would also address issues on productivity and efficiency. "Traffic affects productivity because employees caught in early morning traffic tend to get tired easily," he said.

Fresh start for Tondo school

By Tarra V. Quismundo

ONCE divided over the issue of the privatization of their school canteen, teachers and students of a Manila public high school appear headed to a fresh start when it marks its foundation anniversary today.

Lakandula High School in Manila celebrates its 42nd foundation anniversary with the coming of its new principal.

"Of course, we are very happy," said a school teacher who had been active in protests against the privatization of their school canteen.

Between September and October, tension rose inside this public school on Padre Rada Street in Tondo as teachers and students were up in arms against former school principal Alice Blas, who had given a private manager control over the canteen.

A teachers' cooperative used to operate the canteen. Teachers said the privatization cut short the contract they had signed with the school administration.

The Department of Education is currently investigating the matter, after the Manila Division of City Schools upheld the contract as legal and sought an inquiry by the central office.

Blas had been reassigned to the Nolasco High School, although she had tried to return to Lakandula.

Yesterday, former Nolasco principal Olimpiada Camilo took over Blas' post, and met with the school community she would be administering.

"We will start anew," the teacher said, even if the privatization issue has yet to be settled.

In today's foundation anniversary, Lakandula High School would be celebrating with the theme "Lakandula High School: Towards the Road Map for Peace, Unity and Reconciliation."

Asked whether it applied to the teachers' reconciliation with Blas, a teacher said that for her, this meant reconciliation among teachers, whose friendships had soured during the height of protests against the canteen's privatization.

"All wounds would heal, but it would not happen right away.

"It would take time, but this is the beginning," she added.

HOLIDAY CHEER. Street children have a rare opportunity to live their dreams as they are welcomed by Enchanted Kingdom mascot Wizard at the opening of the World Bazaar Festival at the World Trade Center in Pasay City, where they were given their share of food, gifts and entertainment. ERIK ARAZAS

End road diggings, for now

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority (MMDA) yesterday imposed a moratorium on road diggings this Christmas season.

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando said that the agency has stopped issuing permits for new excavations in Metro Manila's roads to help ease up the holiday traffic.

Fernando said that with the moratorium on road diggings, which began yesterday and will end after Jan. 1, the agency hopes to ensure a smoother flow of traffic during the holidays.

"We are advising public utility companies to reschedule diggings until the New Year," Fernando said. The MMDA chair added that existing excavations should be covered with steel plate lids at once.

Fernando said that ongoing road projects could be completed during the night, after the rush hour.

Gerry Afable, who evaluates excavation permits for the MMDA, said the agency would be doubly strict in enforcing the moratorium on Edsa, from Monumento to Roxas Boulevard.

Afable said the diggings were concentrated mainly in the Guadalupe and Ayala areas in Makati City.

"The MMDA would not hesitate to confiscate materials and equipment blocking the roadways," Fernando warned. "We may even be forced to cancel the permits of violators."

Metro Manila records 7% crime drop–PNP

By Christian V. Esguerra

METRO Manila has become more peaceful midway into the holiday season.

The number of crimes in the National Capital Region dropped by 7 percent from January to November compared to the same period last year, Director Avelino Razon Jr., NCR police director, reported yesterday.

Razon attributed the significant drop to the deployment of more police officers in shopping malls, transport terminals, schools, markets, churches and other densely populated areas.

The NCRPO chief ordered greater police visibility during the Christmas season when petty crimes rise. Conspicuous in shopping malls are "Santa Cops," officers who go about their duty wearing Santa Claus hats.

Razon cited the NCRPO's contribution to the crime drop, stressing the fact that around 30,000 of his men carry no firearms. The policemen make do with guns they personally purchased or nightsticks, he said.

To address the problem, the official said he issued 500 Taurus 9 mm pistols and 14,000 rounds of ammunition to the policemen.

Officers were also told to take an annual firearms proficiency test to improve their skills. Those who fail the test were not issued guns.

Razon also ordered the conversion of vehicles used to escort top officials into patrol cars to augment the police fleet. Non-governmental organizations also donated 20 motorcycles and several bicycles to the "tourist police."

Cause-oriented groups favor NPA?

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

MORE than a week after New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas killed a number of government soldiers in San Rafael, Bulacan, we have yet to hear even a word of condemnation from cause-oriented groups and leftist congressmen and congresswomen.

The government soldiers were in that town on a mercy mission. They were rescuing barrio folk from rampaging floodwaters.

They were probably armed—because it's part of their uniform—but they came to the town to make peace and not wage war.

Yet, the NPA did not spare the soldiers who were carrying the flag of truce.

And what has been the reaction of civil society, cause-oriented groups, and left-leaning politicians to the ambush? Nothing!

This gives rise to the perception that, as far as cause-oriented groups are concerned, the NPA can do no wrong. If government soldiers killed NPA guerrillas, it's a violation of their human rights. If, on the other hand, the NPA killed government soldiers, "it's all right."

***

Retired Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus talked the other night with his adviser, lawyer Vicente Chuidian, to make plans in the drive against illegal loggers who are being blamed for the denudation of the forests of the Sierra Madre mountain range. This caused floods to rampage in several provinces in Luzon.

Corpus has been appointed anti-illegal logging czar, with full backing from an angry President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Corpus should look into the people behind the illegal logging activities in Aurora, one of the most devastated provinces.

If the former military intelligence chief looks close enough, he will find Sen. Edgardo Angara and his sister, Bellaflor Angara-Castillo, as the ones indirectly responsible for the denudation of the province's forest cover.

The Angaras were probably not directly engaged in illegal logging in the province, but their inaction makes them equally culpable.

If Corpus would ask for help from Chuidian's law office in prosecuting illegal loggers, we would see a big legal battle between Chuidian and the Angaras. The senator might come to the aid of his illegal logger-friends. Both Chuidian and Senator Angara are legal luminaries.

***

If the airfield in Baler, Quezon, were open to commercial aircraft, private planes would now be helping ferry relief goods to stricken areas by landing at the airfield.

One commercial pilot said he had asked Senator Angara and Real town officials years ago to open the airfield to commercial aircraft. But the senator and the local officials did not heed the request. The senator was probably busy with more mundane things to grant a simple request.

Technology for Innovators™ TEXAS INSTRUMENTS

Texas Instruments Incorporated has Semiconductor devices available for sale, including DSP, Mixed Signal, Analog, and DLP devices.

For more information, call 1 + (972) 917-6922

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2004

METRO

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Ester G. Dipasupil ■ Assistant Editor Cenon B. Bibe

EZ2: 5 5

SUERTRES: 0 0 1 (In exact order)

FOUR DIGIT: 6 6 4 6

MEGALOTTO 6/45: 1 15 23 29 36 42

Text us your feedback: inquirer met name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Inspection of Manila biz firms stopped

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THE MANILA City government has declared a suspension of inspection visits to business establishments around the city for the entire month of December to dispel the impression that its inspectors could use the occasion to collect holiday gifts.

Manila Mayor Joselito Atienza yesterday released a memorandum addressed to the city's department heads, division chiefs, city inspectors, and all other employees ordering a halt in the inspection of business establishments in the city during the holiday season.

The order took effect on Dec. 1, and would be lifted on the first week of January, said Atienza.

"All inspectors, examiners and field personnel involved in the inspection of business establishments in Manila are hereby directed to stop, cease, desist and refrain from undertaking any inspection of any firm, company or corporation," said Atienza in a memorandum posted on bulletin boards all over City Hall.

The only exception, said the memo, would be inspections "demanded in the highest interest of public service," and upon the mayor's authorization.

Strict compliance

Atienza would have the discretion on whether or not to conduct an inspection while the memo is in effect.

Those who would disobey the order, which was marked for "strict compliance," would be "dealt with drastically," the memo added.

"We don't want anyone to think that our inspectors would make the trips not only purely for business but also to indulge in their own personal 'caroling,'" the mayor added.

"With this order, we could prevent any negative impression that could arise in Manila's business community," Atienza told the INQUIRER.

He was referring to the Christmas tradition among children making the rounds of homes in the neighborhood to sing Christmas carols in exchange for gifts or cash.

Misinterpreted gesture

Similarly, inspectors going around business establishments during the Yuletide season might be misinterpreted as being on a personal quest for Christmas gifts said Atienza, even if they would only be performing their mandated duty.

Only after the holidays can the city's inspectors return to regular inspections, an activity that City Hall implements on business firms to check whether or not owners run their operations with the proper licenses.

Since his first term as mayor in 1998, Atienza had been working to eradicate corruption within City Hall, a job that he had said had yet to be done fully, but which he vowed to pursue in his remaining years in City Hall.

Malabon may hike permit fees

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

IF PLANS push through, getting a police clearance in Malabon City may soon cost 10 times more than the original fee.

Still reeling from a fiscal crisis, the Malabon City government is planning to increase local fees, hoping the amendment of the city revenue code would generate an additional P47 million in annual revenues.

The proposal seeks to increase permit fees for pedicabs, tricycles, buildings and businesses as well as fees for certifications, city treasurer Ernesto Pabustan told the INQUIRER.

Getting a police clearance for a job application, for instance, now costs P10. Under the proposed amendment, the new rate would be P100. A police clearance for a firearm license application, on the other hand, would be pegged at P500.

Fees for getting copies of birth, marriage and death certificates will also rise from P30 to P50.

Based on the proposal, annual fees for permits from the Mayor's Office will also be organized into three categories, depending on the businesses' annual income and number of employees: "small" businesses would have to pay P1,000; "medium" businesses, P3,000; and "large" businesses, P6,000.

The proposal was already sent to the City Council for approval. A public hearing is scheduled this week with the participation of other sectors.

City Hall's current fees were last updated in 1992, or more than 12 years ago, Pabustan said, adding that the local government was in dire need of additional revenues.

With the closure of the local dump in Barangay Catmon early this year, the city had turned to private haulers for its garbage disposal services.

But while the city collects a little over P5 million yearly for garbage collection, it pays P8 million every month to private haulers.

Court blocks Makati bid to own MRT stations

A MAKATI city judge yesterday issued a writ of preliminary injunction preventing the Makati City government from taking over the Metro Rail Transit property after the local government unit placed four terminals and railways on the auction block last month.

Judge Ricardo Rosario of Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 66 ordered the Makati City government to cease and desist from recording the certificate of sale in the Registry of Deeds, and from effecting the transfer of ownership of the properties to the city.

The city government had "awarded itself" the MRT properties in a public auction on Nov. 10 after the MRT allegedly failed to pay the city billions in realty taxes. City officials said the MRT, which owes the city government P1.2 billion in realty taxes from 2000 to 2004, has the highest unpaid taxes in a list of 208 real properties with tax delinquencies prepared by the city's treasury department.

The MRT is a government infrastructure exempt from real property tax, Rosario said.

Margaux C. Ortiz

EZ2 5 5 | SUERTRES 0 0 1 (In exact order) | FOUR DIGIT 6 6 4 6

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

METRO

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Ester G. Dipasupil ■ Assistant Editor Cenon B. Bibe

MEGALOTTO 6/45 1 15 23 29 36 42

Text us your feedback: Inquirer met name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Inspection of Manila biz firms stopped

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THE MANILA City government has declared a suspension of inspection visits to business establishments around the city for the entire month of December to dispel the impression that its inspectors could use the occasion to collect holiday gifts.

Manila Mayor Joselito Atienza yesterday released a memorandum addressed to the city's department heads, division chiefs, city inspectors, and all other employees ordering a halt in the inspection of business establishments in the city during the holiday season.

The order took effect on Dec. 1, and would be lifted on the first week of January, said Atienza.

"All inspectors, examiners and field personnel involved in the inspection of business establishments in Manila are hereby directed to stop, cease, desist and refrain from undertaking any inspection of any firm, company or corporation," said Atienza in a memorandum posted on bulletin boards all over City Hall.

The only exception, said the memo, would be inspections "demanded in the highest interest of public service," and upon the mayor's authorization.

Strict compliance

Atienza would have the discretion on whether or not to conduct an inspection while the memo is in effect.

Those who would disobey the order, which was marked for "strict compliance," would be "dealt with drastically," the memo added.

"We don't want anyone to think that our inspectors would make the trips not only purely for business but also to indulge in their own personal 'caroling,'" the mayor added.

"With this order, we could prevent any negative impression that could arise in Manila's business community," Atienza told the INQUIRER.

He was referring to the Christmas tradition among children making the rounds of homes in the neighborhood to sing Christmas carols in exchange for gifts or cash.

Misinterpreted gesture

Similarly, inspectors going around business establishments during the Yuletide season might be misinterpreted as being on a personal quest for Christmas gifts said Atienza, even if they would only be performing their mandated duty.

Only after the holidays can the city's inspectors return to regular inspections, an activity that City Hall implements on business firms to check whether or not owners run their operations with the proper licenses.

Since his first term as mayor in 1998, Atienza had been working to eradicate corruption within City Hall, a job that he had said had yet to be done fully, but which he vowed to pursue in his remaining years in City Hall.

Malabon may hike permit fees

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

IF PLANS push through, getting a police clearance in Malabon City may soon cost 10 times more than the original fee.

Still reeling from a fiscal crisis, the Malabon City government is planning to increase local fees, hoping the amendment of the city revenue code would generate an additional P47 million in annual revenues.

The proposal seeks to increase permit fees for pedicabs, tricycles, buildings and businesses as well as fees for certifications, city treasurer Ernesto Pabustan told the INQUIRER.

Getting a police clearance for a job application, for instance, now costs P10. Under the proposed amendment, the new rate would be P100. A police clearance for a firearm license application, on the other hand, would be pegged at P500.

Fees for getting copies of birth, marriage and death certificates will also rise from P30 to P50.

Based on the proposal, annual fees for permits from the Mayor's Office will also be organized into three categories, depending on the businesses' annual income and number of employees: "small" businesses would have to pay P1,000; "medium" businesses, P3,000; and "large" businesses, P6,000.

The proposal was already sent to the City Council for approval. A public hearing is scheduled this week with the participation of other sectors.

City Hall's current fees were last updated in 1992, or more than 12 years ago, Pabustan said, adding that the local government was in dire need of additional revenues.

With the closure of the local dump in Barangay Catmon early this year, the city had turned to private haulers for its garbage disposal services.

But while the city collects a little over P5 million yearly for garbage collection, it pays P8 million every month to private haulers.

Court blocks Makati bid to own MRT stations

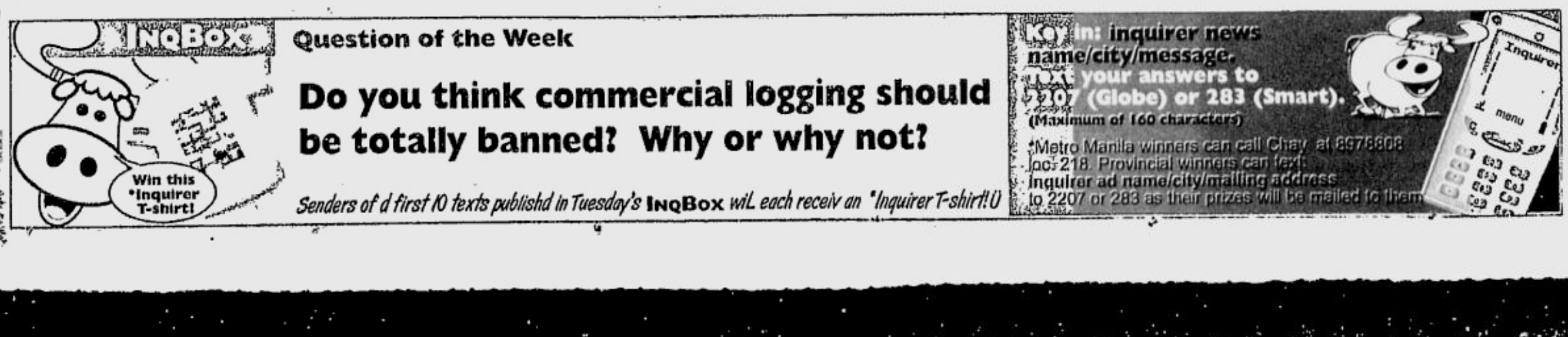
A MAKATI city judge yesterday issued a writ of preliminary injunction preventing the Makati City government from taking over the Metro Rail Transit property after the local government unit placed four terminals and railways on the auction block last month.

Judge Ricardo Rosario of Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 66 ordered the Makati City government to cease and desist from recording the certificate of sale in the Registry of Deeds, and from effecting the transfer of ownership of the properties to the city.

The city government had "awarded itself" the MRT properties in a public auction on Nov. 10 after the MRT allegedly failed to pay the city billions in realty taxes. City officials said the MRT, which owes the city government P1.2 billion in realty taxes from 2000 to 2004, has the highest unpaid taxes in a list of 208 real properties with tax delinquencies prepared by the city's treasury department.

The MRT is a government infrastructure exempt from real property tax, Rosario said.

Margaux C. Ortiz



BASKETBALL: US NCAA —Virginia vs Iowa State; 8 a.m. (r-6 p.m.); ESPN—The ACC's Cavaliers take on the Big Twelve's Cyclones in this college hoops showcase.
NBA-Pistons vs Mavs; 9:30 a.m. (r-9 p.m.); Solar Sports—Defending champion Detroit faces Dallas.
AMERICAN FOOTBALL: NFL-Cowboys vs Seahawks; 10 a.m. (r-8:30 p.m.); ESPN—Dallas hopes that its quarterback controversy doesn't hamper its chances against Seattle.
Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

SPORTS TV
Compiled by L. Mangulat

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2004

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SPORTS

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

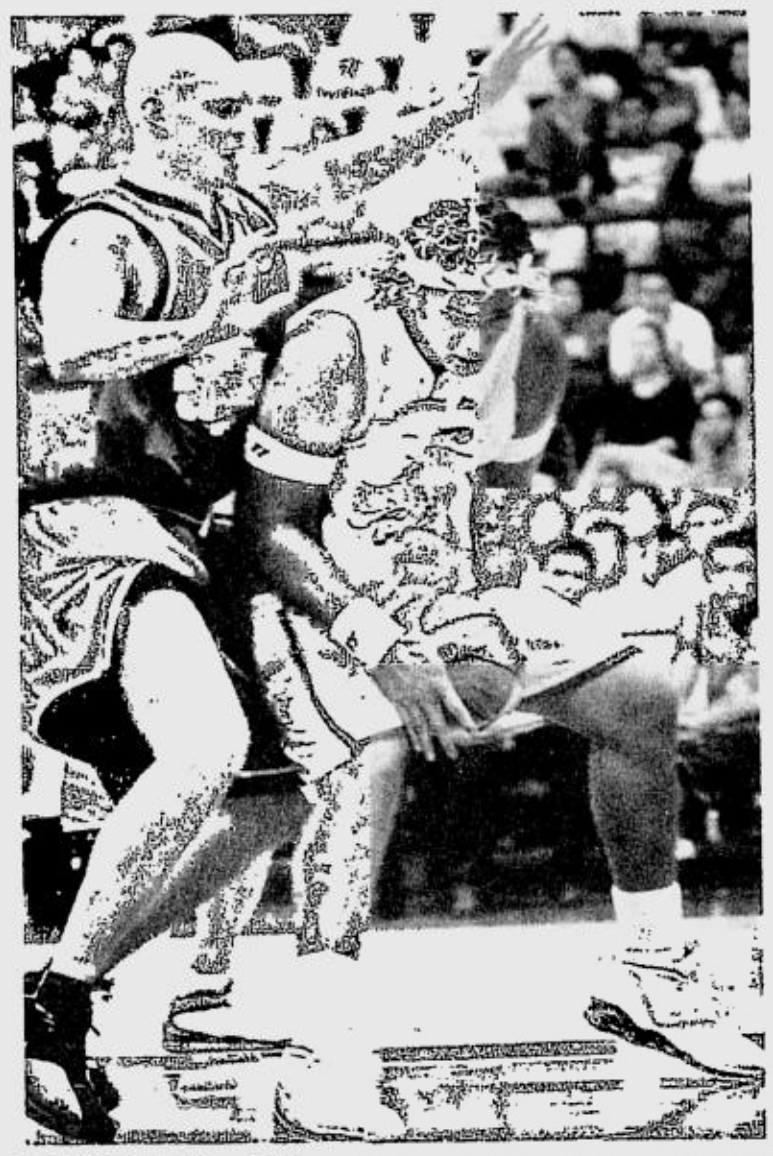
Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres

Text us your feedback: inquirer sprt name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

A21

Don't miss your favorite TV shows!
Check out today's Inquirer TV Guide in the Entertainment section
Happy Viewing!

Ray of hope for six banned 'Fil-shams'



TAULAVA (right) and Crisano: Possible reinstatement PDI PHOTO

WHAT'S INSIDE

Roach ring clinic expects big turnout /A22

Moya relishes dream /A24

By June Navarro

ASI Taulava, Davonn Harp and the rest of the PBA cagers who were banished from the country for falsely claiming Filipino citizenship may be allowed to play again.

But there's a catch.

All six of them—including Rudy Hatfield, Mick Pennisi, Jon Ordonio and Alex Crisano—can rejoin the league only if they file an appeal with the Department of Justice and the agency reverses its deportation ruling.

This and other lenient measures were approved by the Philippine Basketball Association's board of governors in a meeting yesterday.

"In the event that their cases are reversed by the Justice department, they may re-apply for reinstatement provided that they complete the documentary requirements of the PBA," said league commissioner Noli Eala.

Meanwhile, today's scheduled game in Subic between FedEx and Alaska has been moved to Urdaneta, Pangasinan, on Thursday as the first game of a double-header.

The second match will be the Barangay Ginebra-Shell encounter originally set on the same day in Balanga, Bataan.

Aside from the six foreign-bred cagers who are facing summary deportation proceedings, the PBA will review the citizenship documents and application papers of the other 23 Fil-foreigners playing in the league.

"We want to make sure that their papers are in order and, if not, these players should make bold steps on meeting the necessary requirements," said Eala, who pegged the deadline for the completion of requirements on March 4 next year.

If the Fil-foreigners are unable to complete the papers, Eala said the players would be sanctioned by the Commissioner's Office through suspensions until such time they comply with it.

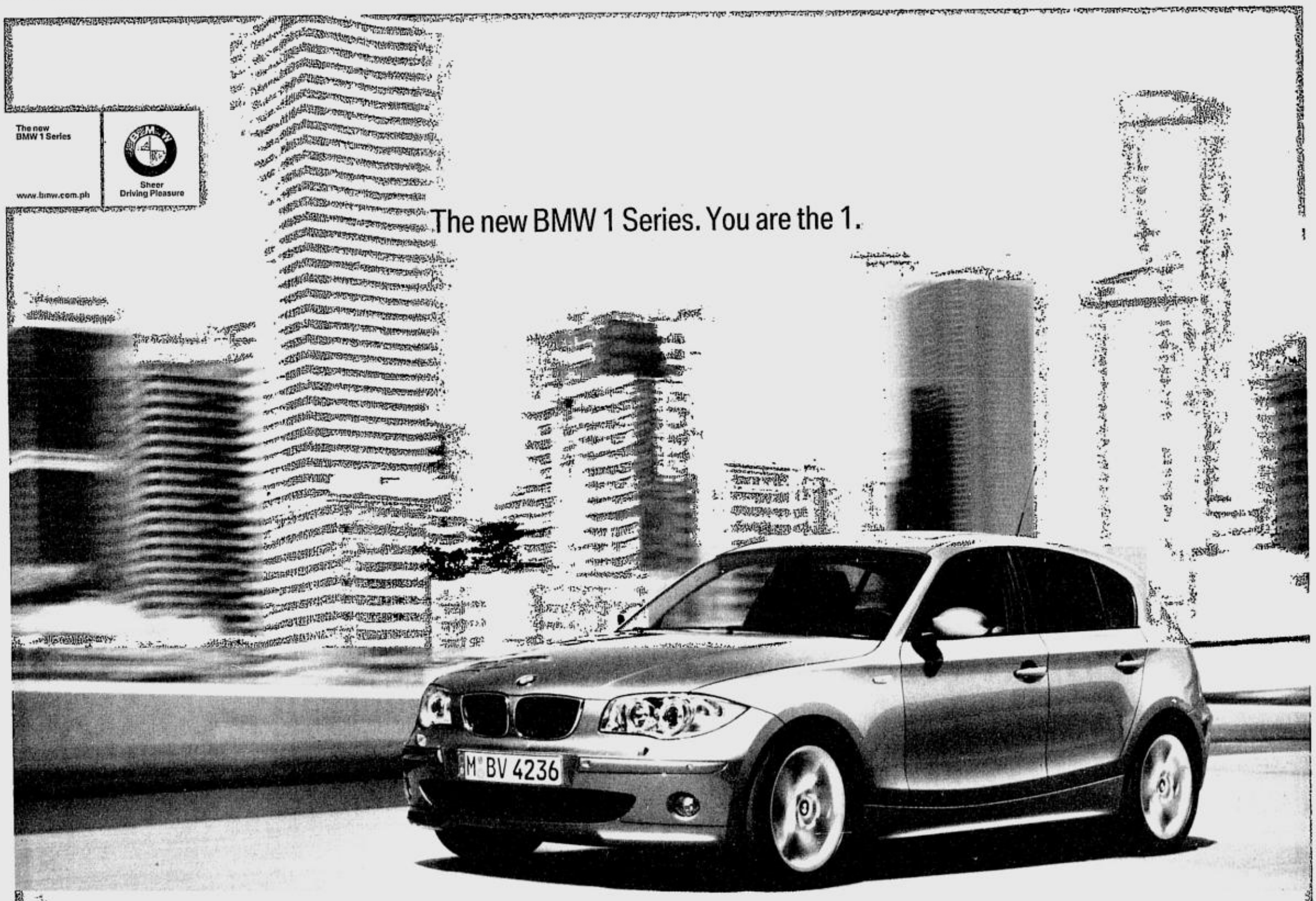
The 23 Fil-foreigners will have to complete the following requirements: DOJ confirmation, immigration recognition, authenticated birth certificates of the player and his parents, marriage certificate, and a notarized naturalization document of either his mother or father.

The league also tightened the requirement for Fil-foreigners aspiring to play in the PBA by creating another set of guidelines.

Beginning this season, an aspiring player must submit affidavits from at least three individuals attesting to his claim to Filipino citizenship.

The new BMW 1 Series
www.bmw.com.ph
Sheer Driving Pleasure

The new BMW 1 Series. You are the 1.



And now there is one: the new BMW 1 Series is full of individual personality, striking style and a unique attitude. The BMW 1 Series is the only one in its class. The only one with groundbreaking BMW design. The only one with rear-wheel drive and trademark BMW handling. The only one with a perfect combination of functionality and versatility. As you can see, the BMW 1 Series is one of a kind – for the one who exudes individuality.

Experience the new BMW 1 Series at the BMW Pavilion, Bonifacio Global City, from December 4-9, 2004. Test drive slots available from 9:00am to 5:00pm. The first 30 buyers of the new BMW 1 Series will each get a HP iPAQ h6365 Pocket PC*.

Autohaus BMW • 184 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Libis, Quezon City • Tel. (02) 638 0734 • Fax (02) 438 0419 Autozentrum BMW • Madrigal Business Park, Commerce Ave., Alabang, Muntinlupa • Tel. (02) 775 0523 • Fax (02) 772 1877 Performance Auto BMW Magallanes St. corner P. Burgos St., Cebu City • Tel. (032) 256 3491 • Fax (032) 256 3492 Premier Cars BMW • CGIC Building, San Fernando-Olongapo Highway, City of San Fernando, Pampanga • Tel. (045) 963 7777 • Fax (045) 963 3355 Prestige Cars BMW • 2324 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City • Tel. (02) 892 8127 to 29 • Fax (02) 816 7325

* Valid only from December 2-31, 2004. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5952 Series of 2004

NBA TV on SOLAR SPORTS

DECEMBER 7 DETROIT PISTONS vs. DALLAS MAVERICKS | 9:30 am

8 NEW JERSEY NETS vs. CLEVELAND CAVALIERS | 8:00 am
9 ORLANDO MAGIC vs. UTAH JAZZ | 10:00 am
10 BOSTON CELTICS vs. PORTLAND BLAZERS | 11:30 am
11 MEMPHIS GRIZZLIES vs. MIAMI HEAT | 8:30 am
12 SACRAMENTO KINGS vs. INDIANA PACERS | 12:00 nn*
NEW JERSEY NETS vs. ATLANTA HAWKS | 8:00 am

* via satellite

Roach ring clinic expects big turnout

THE BOXING clinic of the man who molded Manny Pacquiao into a world boxing celebrity has been moved from the Abap Gym to the Ninoy Aquino Stadium on M. Adriatico Street, Manila to accommodate an expected big turnout.

The Philippines Sportswriters Association and lawyer-sportsman Rudy Salud, organizers of the Freddie Roach boxing clinic set tomorrow and on Thursday, are offering the event free to the public.

However, those who will attend and register with the secretariat will be divided into two groups: actual participants and observers.

Roach, last year's trainer of the year, will deliver a lecture on the first day and also provide solutions to problems to be brought up by the participants.

Day 2 will be spent to demonstrate actual solutions to problems raised and discussed on the first day.

Top super flyweight Z Gorres will be on hand to help Roach in the demonstration of techniques.

PBL commissioner Chino Trinidad, who also helped organize the clinic, will act as master of ceremonies and assist the famous American trainer during the question-answer portion.

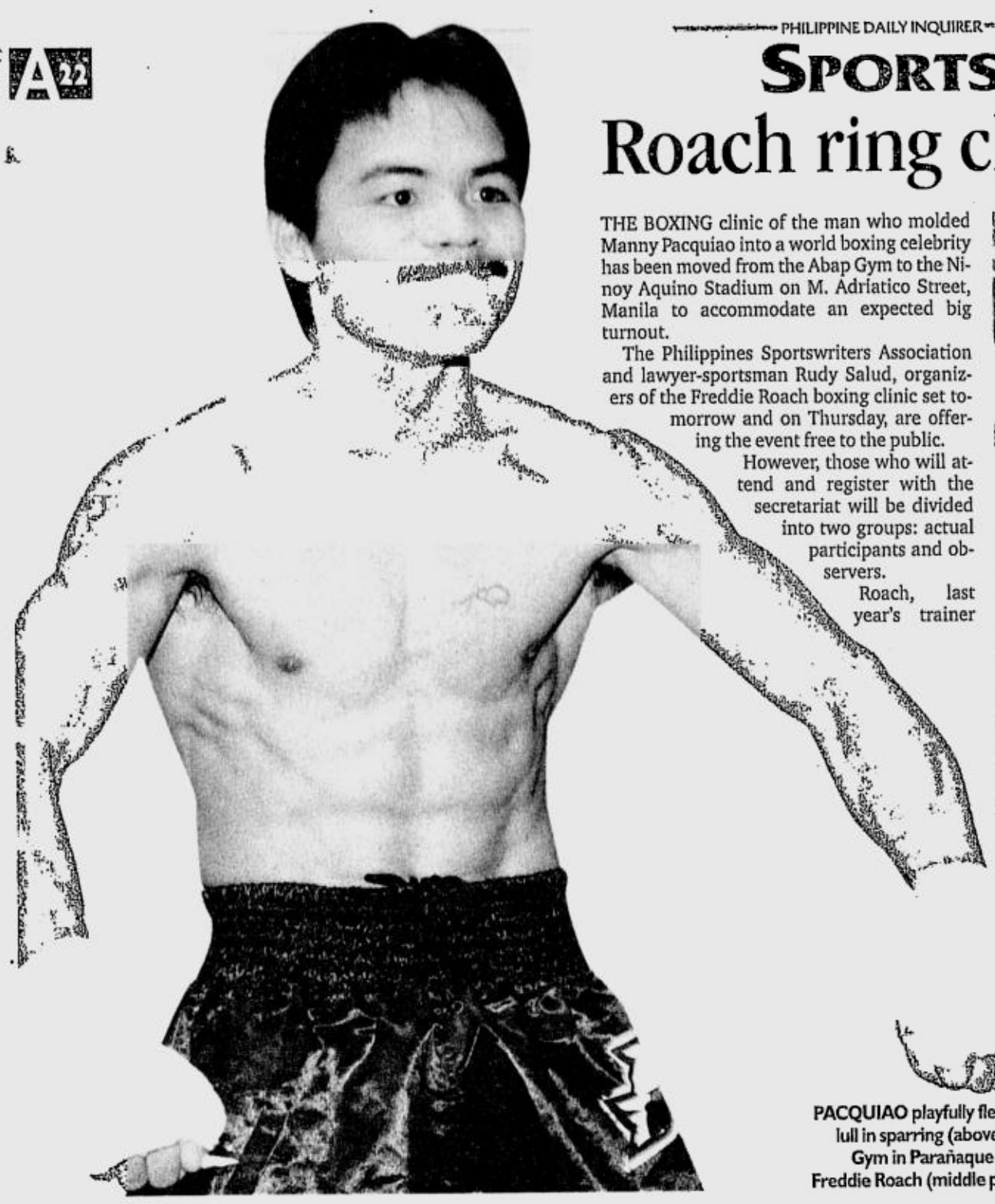
Roach, the 2003 trainer of the year, said there are many other Filipino fighters who could be as great as Pacquiao.

Organizers of the Roach clinic believe that spreading the gospel of championship boxing is one way of discovering and producing more Filipino world champions.

Noted sports nutritionist Sanirose Orbeta will talk on proper diet for fighters on Day 1.

A big delegation is expected from the provinces with the confirmed participation from boxing stables in Cebu, Davao, North Cotabato and Bukidnon.

For inquiries, call the PSC-POC Secretariat at 536-4722, or cell no. 0917-8351226.



PACQUIAO playfully flexes his muscles during a lull in sparring (above right) at the Wild Card Gym in Parañaque yesterday. The eminent Freddie Roach (middle photo). JESS YUSON

Tortillos face Wizards minus leading scorer

WILL Granny Goose keep its winning rhythm without its leading scorer?

With injured Toti Almeda indefinitely sidelined, the Tortillos brace for a rough stand when they seek solo leadership against defending champion Magnolia-Far Eastern University in the PBL Open Championship today at the Makati Coliseum.

Almeda, who paced the team with a 9.5 point average, dislocated his left ring finger in a recent game against ICTSI-La Salle. The 6-foot guard had keyed Granny Goose's 68-64 first round win over Magnolia-FEU by scoring 14 points.

Now, the Ice Cream Wizards are favored to avenge that defeat at 4 p.m.

Earlier, Toyota Otis-Letran will go for its first back-to-back win against Welcoat Paints at 2 p.m.

STANDINGS	W	L
Granny Goose	6	2
Montaña	6	2
Magnolia-FEU	6	3
Welcoat	4	4
Toyota Otis-Letran	4	5
AMP-Ateneo	3	5
ICTSI-La Salle	3	6
Air Philippines	2	7

GAMES TODAY
(*Makati Coliseum*)
2 p.m.—Toyota Otis-Letran vs Welcoat
4 p.m.—Granny Goose vs Magnolia-FEU

The Magnolia Wizards, with an average winning margin of 21.3 points in the last four games, will aim for their fifth straight victory with reigning Most Valuable Player Arwind Santos, Cesar Catli and Mark Isip at the helm.

"I'm happy now with the way the boys are playing," said Magnolia-FEU coach Koy Banal. "Everybody is delivering the goods for us."

But the Tortillos still remain formidable with Ardy Larong, Chico Lanete, JR Quiñahan and Alfie Grijaldo.

It's anybody's game in the Toyota Otis-Letran-Welcoat match due to their unpredictable plays in the second round.

"It's the same old problem for us, lack of consistency," said coach Louie Alas, whose Knights will gun for a repeat of their 63-52 triumph over the Paintmasters in the first round of eliminations.

Toyota Otis-Letran will also try to follow up on its 85-61 drubbing of ICTSI -La Salle, while Welcoat aims to spring back from a 93-80 loss to Montaña. *Jasmine W. Payo*

Asian women's softball draws record 12 teams

ANGPING

WITH DEFENDING titlist China and many-time champion Japan heavily picked to meet in the finals for the fifth consecutive time, the eighth Asian Women's softball tournament opens this Sunday (Dec. 12) at the Rizal ballpark featuring a record-tying 12 nations.

Six games, including the Philippine Blu Girls' match against lowly Thailand, make up the opening schedule of this week-long tournament that serves as the Asian eliminations for the 2007 world championship in Shanghai.

First Gentleman Mike Arroyo has been invited to make the ceremonial pitch in the company of world softball federation president Don Porter during the short, simple opening rites scheduled at 12 noon.

It will be Japan against Hong Kong at 8 a.m., China against Indonesia at 10 a.m., the Philippines against Thailand at 1 p.m., Singapore against South Korea at 3 p.m., Chinese-Taipei against India at 5 o'clock and North Korea against Malaysia at 7 p.m. in the opening games of this tournament backed by San Miguel Corp., Oishi, Boysen Paints and Burlington Socks.

China and Japan, backstopped by several players who saw action in the last Athens Olympic Games, are highly fancied to corner the first two slots for the world tournament, leaving the race for the third and last berth a close and interesting one among the Blu Girls, the Taiwanese and the North Koreans.

The Chinese have ruled this tournament with an iron hand, winning the title three straight times in a streak that started on their debut in 1987 in Tokyo.

They repeated in 1991 in Jakarta and made it three in a row with another big win in 1995 in Manila. In all three occasions, the Chinese defeated the Japanese for the title.

Japan won the inaugural tournament in 1967 in Manila, repeated in 1969 in Taipei and reigned supreme again in 1974 also in Manila, all at the expense of the famed Blu Girls.

According to the organizing Amateur Softball Association of the Philippines headed by president Harry Angping, this marks only the second time since 1967 that 12 countries will see action. In 1991 in Jakarta, 12 teams also competed.

"We're happy that all the countries we invited are coming, including the North Koreans," said Angping. "We're inviting all those who love the game of softball to come and watch the best in Asian women's softball in action."

The field has been divided into two groups of six with Japan, Chinese-Taipei, Korea, Hong Kong, Singapore and India making up Group A and China, North Korea, the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia comprising Group B.

STUNNING SHUTOUT

Mariano-led Muntinlupa closes in on chess title

TAGAYTAY CITY—Sixth seed Muntinlupa City (Alabang) shocked top seed and host Tagaytay City A with 4-0 shutout in Game 1 of the two-match finals yesterday and all but clinched the 2004 National Inter-Cities and Municipalities chess team championship at the Tagaytay Sports Center here.

With the unexpected whitewash, Tagaytay needs a similar formidable 4-0 romp today in the second and final match to force a playoff with the Muntinlupa squad for the top prize of P100,000.

Just a single draw in any of the four boards secures the title for Muntinlupa, whose top two players, Grandmaster Nelson Mariano II and Fide Master Oliver Dimakiling, were assured of stints in the Singapore Open with a win in the finals by team manager Victor Ulanday.

Mariano beat fellow GM Joey Antonio, Dimakiling downed International Master Richard Bitoon and Randy Segarra and Basilio Pandan completed the sweep with wins over Jerome Balico and 11-year-old Wesley So, respectively.

It was a draw on all four boards in the battle for third and fourth places between Dasmariñas (Cavite) and Manila B.

Third seed Dasmariñas fielded IM Petronio Roca, NM Oliver Barbosa, Raymond Salcedo and Roel Abelgas against Manila's IM candidate Darwin Laylo, Asian Zonal champion IM Ronald Dableo, Noel Dela Cruz and Carlo Magno Rosaupan.

In the semifinals held earlier, Tagaytay ousted Dasmariñas, 3.5-0.5 and 2.5-1.5, while Muntinlupa eliminated Manila B, 2.5-1.5 and 2-2.

Tagaytay and Muntinlupa had played to a 2-2 draw in their first meeting in the eliminations.

Meanwhile, NM Edgardo Garma of Tagaytay City B and Mirabeau Maga of San Fernando City (Pampanga) were declared gold medalists on board 1 with 6 points in seven games.

MARIANO: Big victory over Antonio

The other winners were NM Ronald Llavanes of Marikina City on board 2 (6.5/7); Allan Cantonjos of Manila A on board 3 (5/6); Elias Banguiran of General Santos City on board 4 (4.5/5) and Christopher Rodriguez of Manila (Philippine Navy) on board 5 with (4.5/5).

The tournament is sponsored by Tagaytay City. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

Subic SEA Games role up for discussion today

By Marc Anthony Reyes

IS Subic ready to stage the 2005 Southeast Asian Games?

The Philippine SEA Games Organizing Committee will try to clear this key issue during its meeting today with the heads of the 41 national sports associations taking part in the SEAG, and local organizers of sub-sites like Cebu City, Mandaue City, Bacolod and Subic.

While Bacolod and Cebu have already bared their initial plans, including their projected budgets, nothing has been heard from Subic which will host sailing, archery, triathlon and cycling (mountain bike and road race).

Philsoc member Red Dumuk said the local organizers will be asked to report on the status of their preparations in association with the NSAs.

"This will be a big meeting because we will finally determine which event will be held on which day," said Dumuk, who is in charge of venues and site for the meet.

Petron beach volley grand finale Friday

JENNIFER Bohawe and Patricia Siatan, the first back-to-back winners of the Petron Ladies Beach Volleyball Tournament, going up against last leg's champions—Philippine Navy's Michelle Laborte and Cecille Tabuena.

And with the rest of the league's past winners and their runners-up entered, what have you got?

A slambang grand finale to determine the country's best beach volleyball queens, according to organizer Tisha Abundo, a former commissioner of the Philippine Sports Commission.

"It will surely be the beach volleyball event to end all beach volleyball events," she said. "They (past winners) are all here, all raring to strut their stuff and lay claim to the Petron crown."

The tournament is set on Dec. 10 and 11 at the state-of-the-art Cantada Sports Center.

Leading the cast of participants, aside from the Bohawe-Siatan and Laborte-Tabuena pairs, are Joyce Ann Realeza and Roma Cyril Jaro, Lou Maranon and Sherrie Ann Garcia, Rosalina Gomez and Joy Mijares, Layna Macapagal and Mylene Manuel, Rosejoy Pinuela and Maricel Braga, Rose Anne Anne Baroga and Carla Santos, Meanne Calara and Theresa Lopez, and Michelle Pinero and Joan Namuco.

Abundo, a former national volleyball team star, said she was fortunate to have closed a deal with the Cantada Sports Center, courtesy of its owner Boy Cantada.

"We're glad to be concluding this beach volleyball event over at the CSC," she said. "We thank Mr. Boy Cantada, whose heart is really for sports development."

Abundo said the volleyball boom, whether the regular kind or the beach volley type, is a good sign that the sport, which enjoyed immense popularity from the 1970s to the early 1990s, is on the upswing.

"Volleyball tournaments are again drawing the crowds and hogging the sports pages, and we have to take advantage of this," Abundo said.

"As a former volleyball player, it is my fondest wish to bring back the glory days of volleyball in the country."

Iloilo heads charge of Futsal favorites

ILOILO CITY—Iloilo survived a big scare from Laguna, eking out a pulsating 7-6 win Sunday and leading the charge of the favorites at the start of the 1st PFF-adidas Futsal Championship before a huge crowd at the Iloilo Sports Complex here.

Altis Sayson and James starred for the Ilonggos as they netted two goals each to frustrate the Laguna booters in Group B action that thrilled the fans. Negros Occidental was even more unforgiving as it romped to a 19-2 triumph over Oriental Mindoro in Group A.

Cagayan de Oro also made its presence felt in the event organized by the Iloilo Football Association and hosted by the provincial government headed by Gov. Neil Tupas by scoring a 13-6 win over Rizal in Group B.

Cebu-Lhuillier routed Tarlac, 12-3, in Group A of the tournament also supported by WG&A SuperFerry, Aboitiz, Red Ribbon and Petron.

Robert Canedo emerged as the day's best player after knocking in six goals for Negros Occidental in the four-day event, which is a combination of soccer and basketball.

Davao booters edge Cebu, cop Under-19 title

SUSTAINING its streak of success, Davao edged Cebu, 2-1, yesterday to rule the PFF/Adidas U-19 Championship at the San Carlos football pitch in Talamban, Cebu City.

Eduardo Gempisaw and Clifford Dacera struck for Davao in the second half and Cebu just managed a single goal through ace Ronald Mahilum in the 81st minute of the well-attended finals.

It was a wonderful result for the Davao Football Association, which is basking on a spate of football successes lately.

Last August, Davao's Under-19 girl-booters took the silver medal in the National SuperFerry Under-19 tournament and their women's squad returned home in September with the gold in the 'Open' division.

Iloilo won the battle for third place over the National Capital Region with a 4-2 victory in the penalty shoot-out after a scoreless draw in 90 minutes.

The National Capital Region was also beaten in the semifinals by Davao, 4-3.

Content in feeling out the home side, the Davaoeños stayed organized against a Cebu squad out to prove a point.

But while they dominated the early exchanges, the Visayans did not look comfortable attacking their opponents.

After the break, Davao coach Ramonito Carreon made adjustments and his strikers started to create problems for the Cebu defenders. Thirteen minutes into the half, Davao was rewarded by a Gempisaw strike. As the Cebuanos went on attack-mode in search of an equalizer, Dacera burned their defenses to double the advantage for his side, 2-0.

Mahilum, who beat Iloilo in Sunday's semis, pulled one on the 81st minute, but it was not enough this time.

The finals was a rematch of Group A squads who played only last week to a nail-biting 1-1 draw in the eliminations.

The event was organized for the Philippine Football Federation by the Cebu Football Association. It was backed by Petron, SuperFerry, Red Ribbon Bakeshop and supported on television by "Soccer Showdown", the local football program on ABC Channel 5.

SPORTSWATCH

PBA donates to typhoon victims

IT HAS been proven that the Bayanihan spirit lingers in the hearts of PBA people, supporters and fans. Hearing the call for assistance in the aftermath of a series of killer storms that battered Southern Luzon, the PBA community didn't hesitate in extending its helping hand. In fact, just on the first day of its "PBA, Ito Ang Tulong Ko" campaign Sunday, the PBA accumulated P167,300 in cash donation plus hundreds of thousands in kind. Red Bull Barako's Enrico Villanueva, Sta. Lucia Realty's Marlou Aquino and FedEx's Renren Ritualo were the first players to answer the call for help. Among the other early donors were the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO), former Pasig mayor and PBA habitué Mario Raymundo and ABC-5 Sports talent Dominic Uy. The PBA humanitarian project continues until Friday. All phone pledges for donations will be received by the ABC 5 Office of Corporate Affairs at 8128886. Donations in kind will be received within office hours at the PBA office inside the Ultra Complex in Pasig, the ABC Makati Office in Legaspi Village, Makati or ABC Studios on Quirino Highway, Novaliches, Quezon City.

Castañares eyes title in New Zealand

LIKE the popular Manny Pacquiao, Philippine junior welterweight champion Dindo Castañares also has an important date this Saturday. While Pacquiao tries to preserve his status as one of the world's top featherweight fighters against Thailand's Fahsan 3K Battery in Taguig, Castañares will be in New Zealand seeking the World Boxing Foundation junior welterweight title. Opposing Castañares will be Guillermo "Pantera" Mosquera in the first ever world title fight at the Unitec ETA Stadium in Auckland. Mosquera, the Auckland-based Colombian, parades a record of 38 wins (19 KOs) against 5 losses and a draw. After a failed attempt at the WBU crown, Pantera is out to secure the world title this time. Castañares goes into the bout armed with a 14-3-1 win-loss-draw record with 10 KOs. New Zealander David Werimu takes on Fiji's Ja Ali, while NZ's Chris Rehu battles Fiji's Wahid Khan in the preliminaries according to WBF New Zealand supervisor Denny Enright. *Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor*

PTA golf tees off at Intramuros

THE PHILIPPINE Tourism Authority Golf Club's year-end tournament, originally set last Friday, will be played this Saturday at Club Intramuros in Manila. "Due to typhoons Winnie then Yoyong, we had no choice but to move the tournament," said PTA Golf Club president, engineer Nestor Domalanta. This year's backers include Petron Corp., Intellicare, Alaska Milk, Naitas, Smart Communications Inc., San Miguel Corp., Air Philippines, International Exchange Bank Credit Card Division, Zest-O Corp., Alert Security and Investigation Agency Inc., Topnotch Apparel, RM Builders, Maor Mike Panagandaman, Chief Supt. Pedro E. Bulaong, Robert Ynson, Armando N. Zamora, Mario Oreta, AR Santos Sculpture, Nikkos, Vly Commercial and Bulacan Garden Corp. So far, 150 golfers are expected to take part. For inquiries, call Judy Chua at 523-2544 or Irene Tumaob at 523-5949.

Pasay 4-cocker lines up 60 fights

THE ONLY derby scheduled in Metro Manila today is scheduled at the air-conditioned Pasay City Cockpit, a 4-cock event with more than 60 fights lined up. The derby, hosted by E. Mitra and F. Reyes and sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000, Sagupaan Mite Free and Sagupaan B-50 Forten, has an entry fee of P10,000 and a minimum bet of P5,500. For inquiries, call 843-1746, 843-1890 and 816-6750. Meanwhile, the Pasay Cockpit Cockers Association (PCCA) will hold its season-opening 4-cock derby this Friday. Scheduled on Dec. 13, 15 and 17 is the much-awaited "Pasko Sa Pasay 4-Cock Derby," which offers a guaranteed prize of P1.5 million for an entry fee of P8,800. According to pit managers Oscar Gonzales, Eric dela Rosa and Butchoy Olano, a bonus prize of P100,000 await the day champions during the elimination rounds on Dec. 13 and 15. The finals is on Dec. 17.

King clinches open masters crown

NATIONAL Bowler Chester King shot 3143 pinfalls to bag the Open Masters crown in the recent PBA (Pasig Bowling Association)-Boysen Silver Anniversary Open tenpin bowling championships at the Green Valley lanes. PBAP-Bowlmart-Ink for Less' King, the RP representative in the ongoing Bowling World Cup international finals in Singapore together with Liza del Rosario, beat MTBA's Raoul Miranda (3055) and TBAM-Prima's Tyrone Ongpauco (3044). King flew home from Hong Kong where he competed in the HK Open, qualified at the last minute and went on to win the title. Arnold Lecaros also sparkled in the tourney organized by the PBA led by its president, Steve Robles, by scoring his first career perfect game. The other Masters champions were Danny Tuazon, seniors; Maricar Arce, ladies; Francis Villaflor, associate; and Nilo Penado, graded. A member of the host team, Tuazon tallied 2146 to beat Sletba's Freddie Castro (2138), PBA's Willie Dacanay (2088), TBAM-Prima's Tony Ayson (2083) and MBA's Hermie Castillo (2078). Unique's Arce rolled 1912 to topple TBAM-Prima's Rachelle Leon (1904).

WORLD CUP BETS: Puyat Sports vice president Joey Puyat III (center) congratulates Chester King after presenting his plane ticket and allowance for his participation in the forthcoming Bowling World Cup international finals in Singapore. At left is Liza del Rosario, the other RP World Cup entry. Puyat Sports is sponsoring the trip of King and Del Rosario to the competition.

RACING

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Presidentiable 2. Snow Princess 3. Secret Angel 4. Federal Court

Race 2—1. Sovereign Queen/Pitong Bakod 2. Seeing Red 3. Fine Offer 4. Trouble Master

Race 3—1. Be My Pride 2. Money for Shelltex 3. Reason to Believe/U Are My Sunshine 4. Fair Urduja 5. Holy Smoke

Race 4—1. Queen Matawe 2. Take Ten 3. Sand Splash 4. Pirouette

Race 5—1. Hakuna Matata 2. Schwarzenegger 3. Hurry Prince 4. Hezabellagio 5. Tenacity

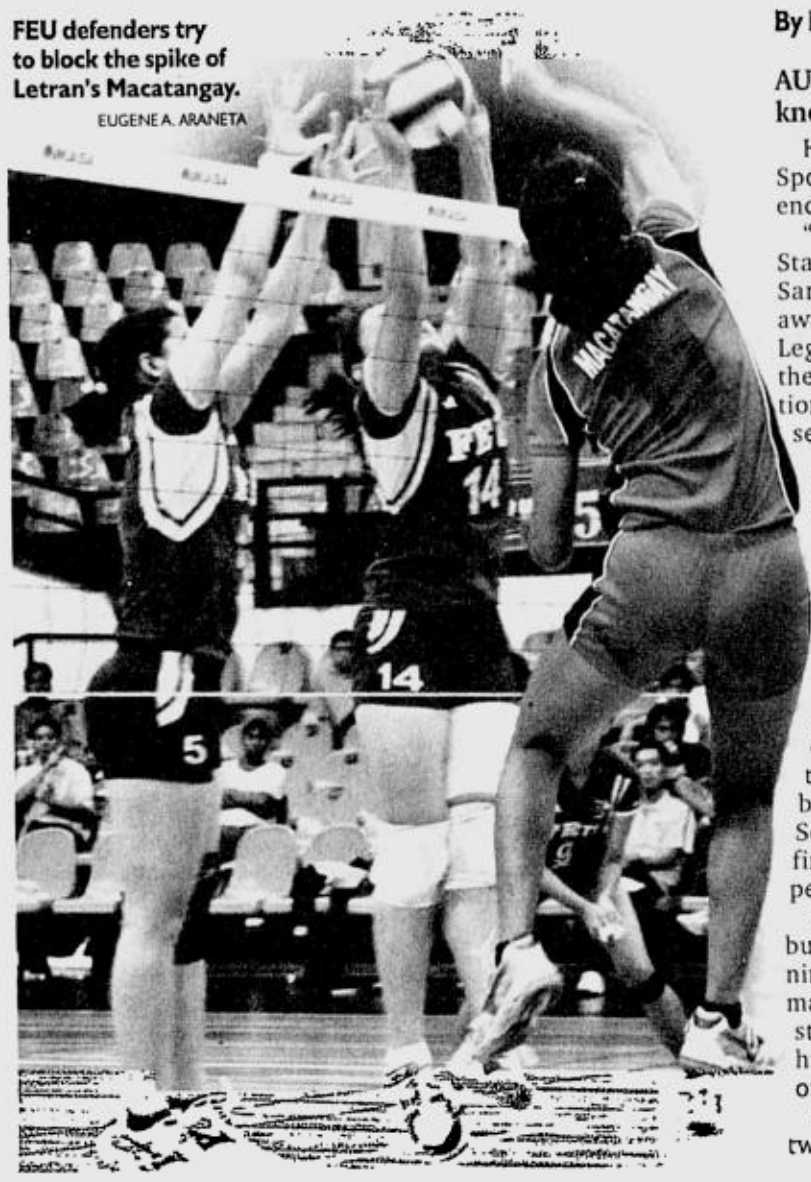
Race 6—1. Cool Reception 2. Beyond Reach 3. Golden Harry 4. Silver Dollar

Race 7—1. Victoria's Secret 2. Cash McCall 3. Blue Sheikh 4. Shaolin 5. Rose and Toy

Race 8—1. Magic Bullet 2. Boogie Shoes 3. Carolina Belle 4. Kaori Yoks 5. Habagat 6. En Carla

SHAKEY'S V-LEAGUE

Legends, Tigresses clash for solo lead



FEU defenders try to block the spike of Letran's Macatangay. EUGENE A. ARANETA

By Musong R. Castillo

AUGUST Sta. Maria has been in the sport long enough to know what's doable and otherwise.

He knows that the Philippine Sports Commission Lady Legends can be beaten.

"They're not unbeatable," Sta. Maria said on the eve of his Santo Tomas Tigresses' much-awaited clash with the Lady Legends for solo leadership in the Shakey's V-League eliminations at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

"They have the advantage in manpower, that's obvious," Sta. Maria added. "But they can be beaten. They won't have the same easy time against us."

The defending champion Tigresses square off with the Lady Legends in the 3 p.m. game, looking to become the first team in the tournament to see a PSC tumble even as La Salle and San Sebastian try to win for the first time at each other's expense at 5 o'clock.

PSC is walking with a big bull's-eye in its back after winning its first three games. It remains favored to notch a fourth straight win against a side highly touted due to its superior firepower and experience.

Santo Tomas has won its first two assignments and only dropped a set in the tournament like PSC.

GAMES TODAY
(Rizal Memorial Coliseum)
3 p.m.—Santo Tomas vs PSC
5 p.m.—La Salle vs San Sebastian

The Tigresses will be coming off a straight-sets victory against Letran on Sunday and Sta. Maria plans to take the fight to the Lady Legends early since PSC, whose average age is 34, will also be playing after only a day's rest.

Roxanne Pimentel, one of two UST reinforcements, is the most prolific attacker in the tournament thus far. She was credited for 20 points against the Lady Knights, 14 of them coming from kills.

"We need to receive well and control the game early," said Sta. Maria, whose 25 years at the helm of the UST volley program has produced at least 10 UAAP titles and other various collegiate trophies.

"I know for a fact that we can defend as well as anyone in the league. If we can get our offense going the way it was in the last two games, we have a better than average chance of winning."

55th Fil-Am Invt'l tees off today

BAGUIO CITY—The young teams of Southwoods and Mizuno-DHL go from top contenders to underdogs when the 55th Fil-Am Invitational Golf Tournament gets going at the Baguio Country Club and Camp John Hay courses here.

After a three-year title duel, Southwoods and Mizuno-DHL are now the dark horses with the entry of Nike Golf Team bannered by crack players from Canlubang and Calatagan as well as Del Monte Golf Club, the PAL Interclub champion last March.

"Nike and Del Monte are the feared team. Man to man, *hindi kami lalaban* (we're not in the fight) but this is teamwork," said defending champion Mizuno-DHL team captain Lovell Gopez.

Gopez said their advantage as underdogs is that the pressure will be off them.

Mizuno-DHL has Marvin Dumadan, Samsung Tour champion Raymund Sangil, Laurence Negrido, Erwin Vinluan and Marvin Dumandan. The players who won the Fil title for Mizuno last year are now with Del Monte.

Dumandan was runner-up in the HLA Saujana Amateur Open in Malaysia last May while Sangil was runner-up in the recent Kau Sai Chau-Asian Golf Monthly International Amateur Open in Hong Kong.

Southwoods is composed of young stars Artemio Murakami, 21; Antonio Asistio, 15; Gene Bondoc, 19; and Mike Bibat, 20. Junjun Plana at 37 is the team's wise old man.

"The ball is round," said Murakami of their chances.

Their main worry is the Nike Golf team led by top amateur Juvic Pagunsan, who paired with Murakami in sweeping the 74th Thailand Amateur Open Golf Championship recently. Other members of Nike are Jun Bernis, Boy Saragosa, Jay Bayron and JR Tampingco.

Such is the strength of the Nike squad that eight-time, Fil-Am individual champ Tommy Manotoc has opted to play in the Am division.

"This will be an interesting fight. This is no longer a two-team contest," said Del Monte's Paul Miñoza, younger brother of Frank Miñoza, who is playing here with fellow PAL teammates led by Tristan Tabanas, Romeo Jaraula, Louie Dacudao and Joel Opaco.

Action in the championship flight will start on Thursday.

Today, players from 80 teams in Classes B, C and D will be teeing off first as early as 6 a.m.

The Class B in the Fil Division are PAGA International, Dugong Bughaw, Aguinaldo and Navy while BMG Solar Team, Dugong Bughaw and Nueva Ecija Golf Team are the top seeds in the Am Division.

In Class C, Publicis Dialog, Club Marinduque, Capitol Hills and Fil-Am at San Diego fight it out with nine other teams. *Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Golf war

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

CLEAR the way for the weary warriors.

They are not that weary, really. At first glance, they seemed tired. You could almost see it in the way they walk: They have leaden legs, laboring every step of the way as they trudge to the clubhouse from the 18th green. Thirty six holes in eight hours covered in two days—minus the benefit of a ride—could be energy-sapping, debilitating.

But don't be fooled, though. They are of a different breed—like those in mythical Troy, they fight to the last drop of their blood.

Their knees will always be in command of their heartbeat that even if they'd been practicing frenetically the past two days, there's no mountain that can't be scaled—no matter the odds.

They'd be playing four days starting today, over 72 difficult holes, on terrain that aren't the friendliest this side of the golfing globe.

While the Baguio Country Club has retained its cardiac holes that remain the bane of many golfers from the low lands, Camp John Hay is no easy picking, though. CJH, although it's been redesigned by Jack Nicklaus, has not been overhauled to suit the taste of duffers simply out to have fun in the sun.

But make no mistake about it: Those set to be unleashed today are more than ready. For one, their bodies are built to last the siege. For another, their minds are set to complete the conquest. They aren't like the seniors: More play, less business. In the Men's Regular of the 55th Fil-Am Golf Invitational that begins today at both the Baguio Country Club and Camp John Hay, it's all business for the 800 or so participants. No play. To the purists, the word fun is no-no.

Mizuno-DHL has come back to defend the tournament's most coveted plum, the Fil title. It finally won the crown last year in its third attempt to unseat CAP-Southwoods, still too stunned over the setback it seemed it was in no mood for competition this year; it has fielded a not-so-competitive bunch of youngsters. I wonder if CAP-Southwoods is even ready to properly defend its Am title.

Del Monte, with some of its players formerly with Mizuno-DHL, can give Mizuno-DHL some headaches but then, newcomer Nike—not really a rookie squad if we consider the players in its fold—has been grudgingly considered out to transform the tournament into a commercial war.

You see, the last three, four, years saw Mizuno-DHL star as the team chiefly credited with returning the fire and fervor of this fabled tournament. Its participation alone—never mind if it finished second the last two, three, years prior to 2003—has rekindled the event's old flame: Its players offered perennial champion Southwoods a thrilling, exciting and drama-filled challenge from beginning to end. In short, with Nike's participation, Mizuno-DHL has got company. Mizuno, in case you've forgotten, has been giving Nike over the years a tough time insofar as sales of golf equipment is concerned.

And so, if the Arab world had its gulf war, the Fil-Am now has its own golf war. Indeed, the Fil-Am, the largest golf tournament in the world in terms of the number of participants, does not, will never, run out of novelties.

SUNS' Joe Johnson (right) and Blazers' Darius Miles go for the loose ball.

Suns scorch Trail Blazers; Peja rallies Kings past Celts

NEW YORK—Quentin Richardson poured in 37 points, including eight three-pointers, and Shawn Marion added 16 points and 12 rebounds to lead the Phoenix Suns to a 121-99 thrashing of the host Portland Trail Blazers Sunday.

Amare Stoudemire had 19 points and nine rebounds for the Suns, who blew open the game with 37 points in the fourth quarter and led by as many as 25 at one stage.

Phoenix (14-3) hit back in style in its first game since losing for the first time in 10 outings Friday to Minnesota.

Steve Nash also claimed a double-double for Phoenix with 10 points and 11 assists while Joe Johnson chipped in with 15 points.

Zach Randolph collected 24 points and 11 rebounds for Portland and Shareef Abdur-Rahim added 15 points and 11 rebounds.

Ruben Patterson posted 15 points for the Trail Blazers while Darius Miles had 14. Portland (8-8) has lost two straight since reeling off four wins out of five.

In Sacramento, Peja Stojakovic registered 27 points, including six three-pointers, as the Kings rolled to a 119-105 victory over the Boston Celtics.

Brad Miller added 22 points and 10 rebounds for Sacramento (12-5) while Chris Webber had 18 points and 10 rebounds.

Mike Bibby picked up 15 points and 10 assists for the Kings, who overcame a 36-18 first-quarter deficit with six players scoring in double figures.

Mark Blount recorded 18 points and eight rebounds for Boston (7-9) but his team allowed 37 points in the second quarter and another 38 in the third.

Paul Pierce added 16 points for the Celtics while Raef LaFrentz notched 15 points and 14 rebounds. *Reuters*

Moya relishes dream as Spain grabs crown

SEVILLE, Spain—A majestic Carlos Moya tamed world No. 2 Andy Roddick, 6-2, 7-6, 7-6, on Sunday to clinch the Davis Cup for Spain.

The popular Mallorcan erased the heartache of missing Spain's maiden triumph in 2000 by bringing the American to his knees in front of more than 27,000 frenzied fans in Seville's Olympic Stadium.

"It is a moment I have been waiting for for many years," Moya said, tears glistening in his eyes. "An incredible way to win the Cup.

"The Davis Cup is my dream. I don't believe there is anything bigger than what I've lived through today," the former world No. 1 added.

Roddick, caked in red clay, hurled himself all over the specially constructed court throughout the contest but was simply unable to fend off his tormentor.

"Bottom line is they were just better than us this weekend," Roddick said, refusing to blame a groin strain he suffered in the second set for his defeat. "You can say whatever you want, but they came out, they took care of business. They beat us. It's as simple as that."

Moya's victory—a first over Roddick after three defeats—gave Spain an unassailable 3-1 lead over the United States.

Moya beat Mardy Fish and Roddick fell to Rafael Nadal on the opening day before Bob and Mike Bryan won Saturday's doubles.

Fish later made it 3-2 with a 7-6, 6-2 victory over Tommy Robredo in the dead rubber.

Moya's victory over Roddick made his fellow Mallorcan Nadal the youngest player to help win the Davis Cup.

Aged 18 years and 185 days, Nadal beat the record set by Australia's Pat Cash in 1983 by 30 days.

Former French Open champion Moya got off to a great start on Sunday, streaking into a 4-0 lead before Roddick registered on the scoreboard.

With Spanish trumpeters tooting in the crowd and against a sea of red and yellow flags, the world No. 5 teased and tormented the rampaging Roddick with an array of spins and angles.

Moya wrapped up the opening set in just 36 minutes as US coach Patrick McEnroe squirmed in his courtside seat. *Reuters*

CARLOS Moya exults at the end of his Davis Cup final tennis match. AP

RODDICK: Dejected REUTERS

Tennis' new young star rises in Nadal

SEVILLE, Spain—Tennis may have a new star—18-year-old Spaniard Rafael Nadal.

In beating world No. 2 Andy Roddick in four sets on the first day of the Davis Cup final before a record 27,200 fans, he has made his mark as the latest in a long line of talented Spanish players.

"In each period of my life there have been key matches," he said. "Maybe this is one of them."

His friends call him "Biturbo," which translates to "Twin Turbo."

It's easy to see why.

Nadal is a 1.85-meter (6-foot-1) left-hander with a powerful, sweeping stroke who can play from the baseline on clay but—as he showed in beating Roddick—has raw power to go with a boyish face.

And the fans—at least the Spanish fans—love him for his exuberance and his leaps and scissor kicks on the court after winning big points.

After beating Roddick, he flopped on his back and rolled in the dusty red clay in Seville's Olympic Stadium. As teammate Carlos Moya defeated Roddick on Sunday to clinch the title over the United States, Nadal was the team's main cheerleader on the bench.

Nadal was a surprise pick to play singles instead of former French Open champion Juan Carlos Ferrero. Ferrero, a former world No. 1, was slowed all season by chicken pox and broken ribs. Of Spain's four Davis players, Nadal's ranking was the lowest—51.

Nadal joins a long line of Spanish talent: Sergi Bruguera, Alex Corretja, Albert Costa, Ferrero and Moya. The line stretches back to the player regarded as Spain's best ever—Manuel Santana.

Goosen keeps his cool, tops Nedbank

SUN CITY, South Africa—Retief Goosen converted a superb five-under-par front nine into a serene six-stroke victory at the Nedbank Challenge as third-round leader Lee Westwood saw his chances sunk in a welter of bogeys on Sunday.

Goosen, the US Open champion, won from countryman and world No. 2-ranked player Ernie Els and Australia's Stuart Appleby. Els, a three-time champion at Sun City, carded a final-round 71, while Appleby struggled to a 74.

Goosen nearly didn't start the tournament. He said: "I heard on Wednesday that my newborn daughter, Ella, was in hospital with bronchitis."

"I was all ready to climb onto a plane right away and go back to London, but my wife, Tracy, persuaded me to play, and this win certainly makes it worthwhile."

It was at the eighth and ninth holes of the 7,162-meter (7,835 yard) par-72 Gary Player Country Club course that the tournament was won and lost as Goosen finished seven-under par.

Westwood carded a calamitous triple-bogey on the par-four eighth. He shot a fine birdie on the par-five ninth, but Goosen responded with an eagle on the same hole.

"After that, I thought I could get to 12-under for the tournament," said Goosen, "but the bogeys on 10 and 11 put that out the window."

That left Westwood having to do precisely what he said the day before should not be done on the difficult course—he had to play aggressively.

But the aggression led him to drop seven shots—five bogeys and a double bogey—as Goosen won the tournament billed as "Africa's Major" at his fourth attempt.

Nerves played a big role as he shot four bogeys of his own on the back nine—a stark contrast to his cool play on the outward journey which included three birdies and an eagle.

"I just thought of staying ahead," said Goosen. "I was making a lot of mistakes, but no one was going to make a run at me the way the course was playing."

GOOSEN: Surprise winner AFP

The eagle was the point at which Goosen appeared to have Westwood reeling on the ropes. He was reticent when it came to planting the knockout blow, however.

After he bogeyed the relatively easy par-five 10th, he compounded the impression of a player about to buckle himself when he pulled his drive on the 11th, left his approach a long way right and bogeyed for a second successive hole.

There were bogeys again on 13 and 18 but, by then, Westwood's challenge had evaporated.

For Goosen, who had been battling the effects of a three-week long cold, the whole tournament was a struggle.

"Every shot was like a fight out there this week," he said. .

Goosen, whose US Open win this year came at the very tough Shinnecock Hills course, said he relished the challenge posed by difficult courses.

"This was one of the toughest courses we played on all year," he said. "I like it when it's really tough. I think better players come through on a tough course."

The course caused a trail of poor scores. None was poorer than Spaniard Sergio Garcia, who finished 15-over-par. *AP*

Thais shoot for hat-trick

HANOI, Vietnam—Southeast Asia's biennial battle for football supremacy kicks off Tuesday with regional giants Thailand gunning for a hat-trick in the 10-team Tiger Cup.

Thailand, which begins its campaign against Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur on Friday, starts as favorite to be crowned champion of the Asean Football Championship for the third tournament in a row.

Launched eight years ago, the Tiger Cup has been held every two years since 1996 and has emerged as Southeast Asia's premier international football event.

This year's competition is being co-hosted by Malaysia and Vietnam, with each nation staging one of the two first round pools of five teams before home-and-away knockout rounds start on Dec. 29.

Group A gets under way in Ho Chi Minh City on Tuesday with Laos meeting Indonesia while Singapore plays host Vietnam. Cambodia completes the group.

Group B, which kicks off in Kuala Lumpur on Wednesday, sees host Malaysia pooled with Thailand, the Philippines, Myanmar and East Timor.

With victories in three of the four Tiger Cups held to date, Thailand starts as the team to beat despite a troubled year which has seen them change coach twice, exit World Cup qualifiers early and get trounced at the Asian Cup.

The Thais warmed up for the competition with a penalty shoot-out loss against Slovakia in Bangkok last week after a 1-1 draw in normal time.

Coach Siegfried Held said the match showed up weaknesses in Thai ranks, and has called for his team to maintain possession more effectively. *AFP*

Death on the field

NEW DELHI—A Brazilian-born soccer player with an Indian club collapsed and died on Sunday, moments after scoring his second goal in his team's 2-0 victory.

Dempo club striker Christiano de Lima Jr., 24, appeared to clash with Mohun Bagan's goalkeeper while scoring and staggered away and collapsed during the final of the Federation Cup, a top inter-club event played in the southern city of Bangalore.

The unconscious player was taken to a hospital but was declared dead by the doctors, Albert Colaco, secretary of the All India Football Federation told Reuters.

De Lima was a prolific goal-scorer since arriving in India a few seasons ago. *Reuters*

A DOCTOR fails to revive Brazilian striker Christiano de Lima Jr. AP

Top stars' latest films

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

WHAT are our favorite film stars up to these days? **Julia Roberts** has just given birth to preemie twins, and has *two* starrers opening this month—"Oceans 12" and "Closer."

In "Ocean's 12," she shares star billing with many lead players, paced by **George Clooney, Matt Damon** and **Catherine Zeta-Jones.**

The film is a breezy heist caper that's more fun than really substantial. For greater significance, Julia's other starrer, "Closer," is "it." Her co-star, **Jude Law**, raves about her performance, and says that she could be in the running for another acting award next year.

That's all to the good, because Julia intends to be a full-time, hands-on mom to her twins (**Phinneaus Walter** and **Hazel Patricia**). So, she's putting her acting career on hold for a few film seasons.

Therefore, Julia's fans will have to content themselves with her two "final" films for years on end, while she pays complete attention to her new family.

For her part, Jodie Foster topbills "Flight Plan," a thriller set high up in the air. Jodie plays a woman who decides to return home to the United States with her young daughter, after her husband dies.

However, while on the flight, her daughter mysteriously disappears, and Jodie has her work cut out for her to regain control of her only child.

Vin Diesel stars as Navy Seal in "The Pacifier." As an elite member of the world's best-trained force, his character is prepared to follow any order, no matter how perilous or difficult—until he tries baby sitting!

Diesel is assigned to protect the unruly children of a scientist who's been assassinated while working on top-secret government projects. Thus, he suddenly has to juggle two outrageously incompatible jobs: fighting the bad guys while keeping house.

The role is very different from Diesel's usual tough-guy characters, so the novelty could click with viewers. On the other hand, we recall that **Arnold Schwarzenegger** once tried to also play it cute and domesticated in this fashion, but his gambit bombed. Let's hope Diesel does better!

Like **Jodie Foster**, **Jennifer Connelly** is going the chiller route in her next film, "Dark Water." Based on a Japanese movie by the people who created "The Ring," this production casts Connelly as a mother who goes to extreme lengths to keep her daughter safe. —Hey, she and Jodie should really work together!

Keanu Reeves' new starrer is "Constantine," where he plays a misfit who investigates mysteries involving the supernatural. He walks a thin line between good and evil, but he's used to it.

In time, he teams up with a female police detective (**Rachel Weisz**), who seeks his help in investigating the death of her twin sister.

As for **Harrison Ford**, "The Wrong Element" casts him as the security chief of a big bank. When his family is kidnapped, he has to grapple with a major dilemma: He has to neutralize his bank's own security safeguards and steal $37 million from its vaults to save his family.

That's quite a twist, but **Johnny Depp** has the biggest plot "hook" to contend with in his new starrer, "The Corpse Bride."

The film's title hints at his character's weird problem: In the macabre movie directed by **Tim Burton**, Depp plays a man who mistakenly weds a murdered woman!

Teen stars on video

TEENAGE idols **Hilary Duff** and the Olsen Twins will soon release their recent starrers on video. In "New York Minute," **Mary-Kate** and **Ashley Olsen** play sisters who look alike but are exact opposites in temperament, one being conservative and the other a daredevil.

In Hilary Duff's starrer, "Cinderella Story," she plays the "enslaved" Sam, who meets her Prince Charming Austin (**Chad Michael Murray**) on the Internet. He turns out to be a popular football player, so he's quite a catch.

Search for Dance Idols

STREETPARK productions presents "Dance Idol," a comprehensive dance talent search at the UP Theater in Diliman on Jan. 8, 2005.

Categories include cheerdance and open category (high school), jazz and streetdance (college), and an open level for school-based or professional dance groups. There will also be a tour of participating schools, and a TV special.

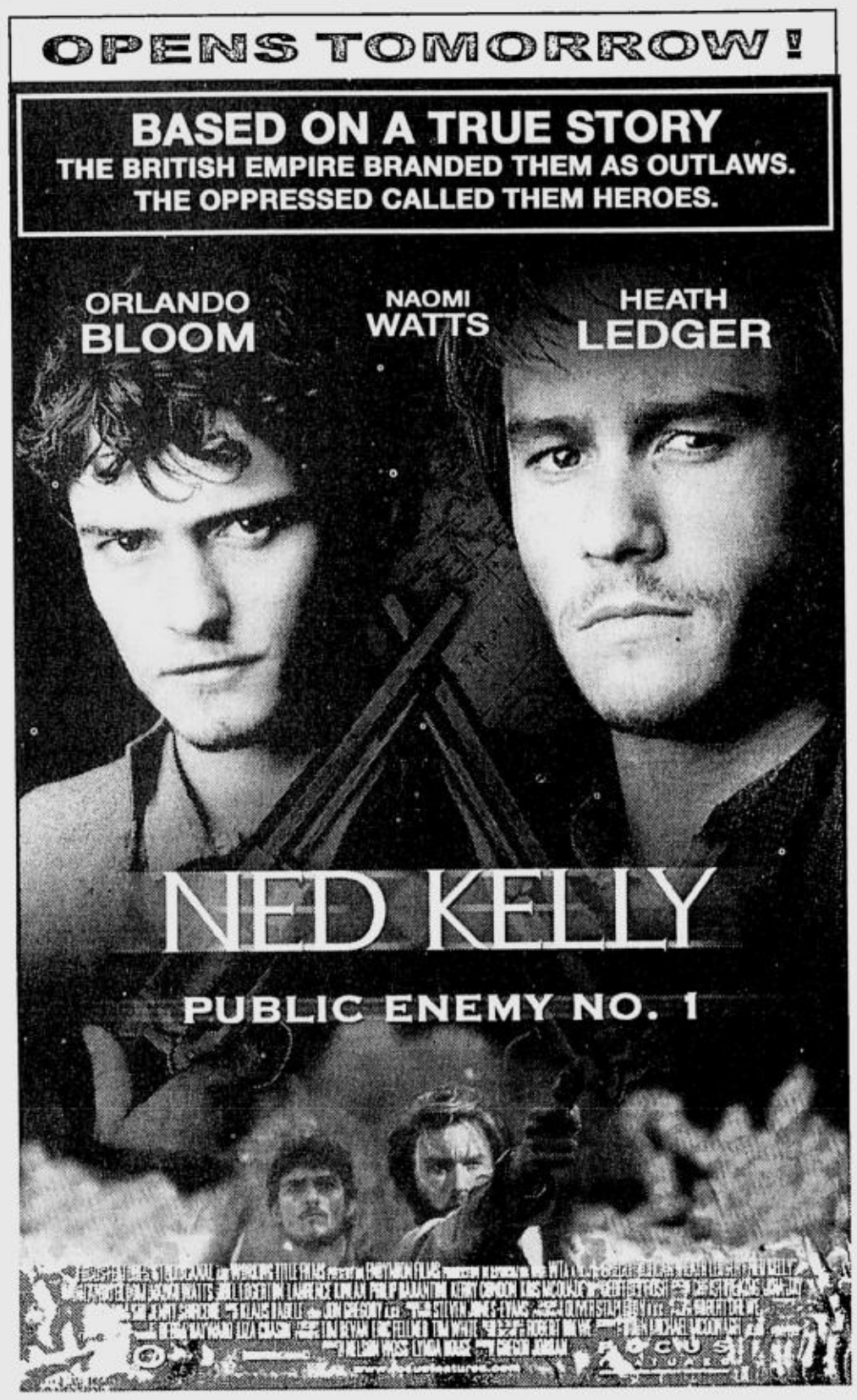
For inquiries, registration and sponsorship, call 436-8882 or email info@streetparkprod.com.

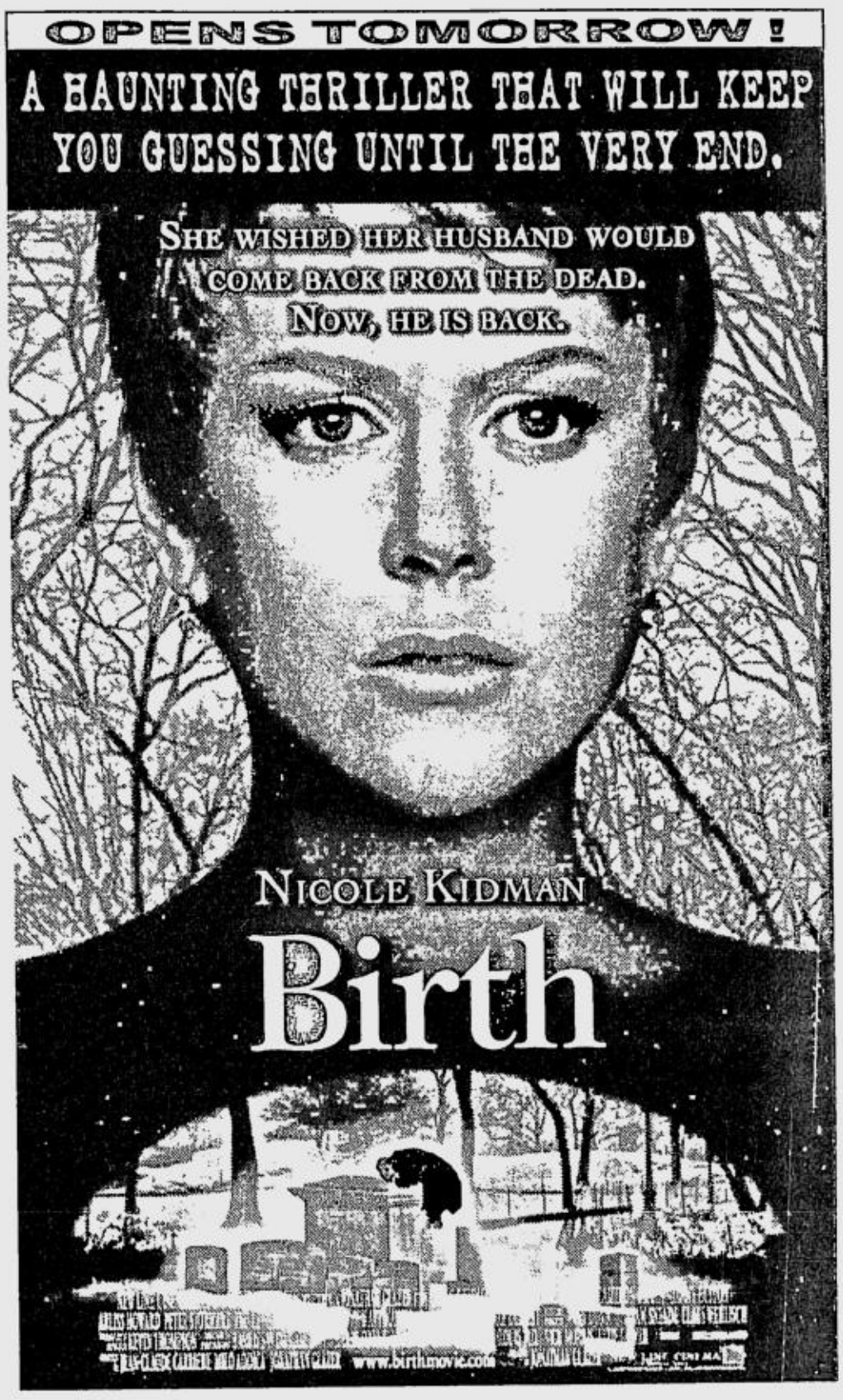
'The Baby Human 2'

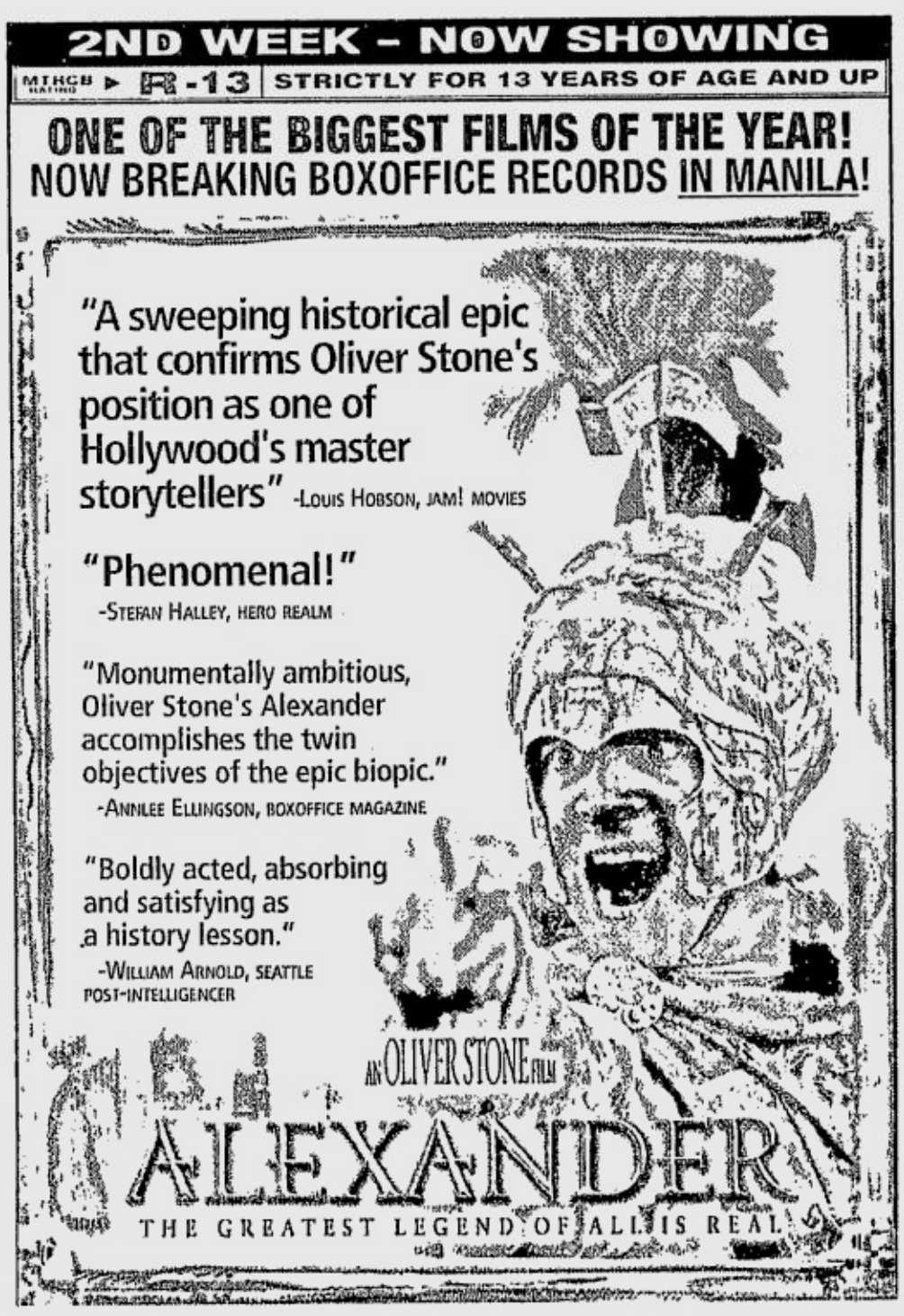
EPISODES of the new series "The Baby Human 2" premiere on the Discovery Channel every Tuesday starting Dec. 7 at 8 p.m. Each episode follows infants' journey through the evolution of their skills, from development to mastery. The first episode focuses on the development of an infant's feelings, and the origin of temperament.

Did You Know...

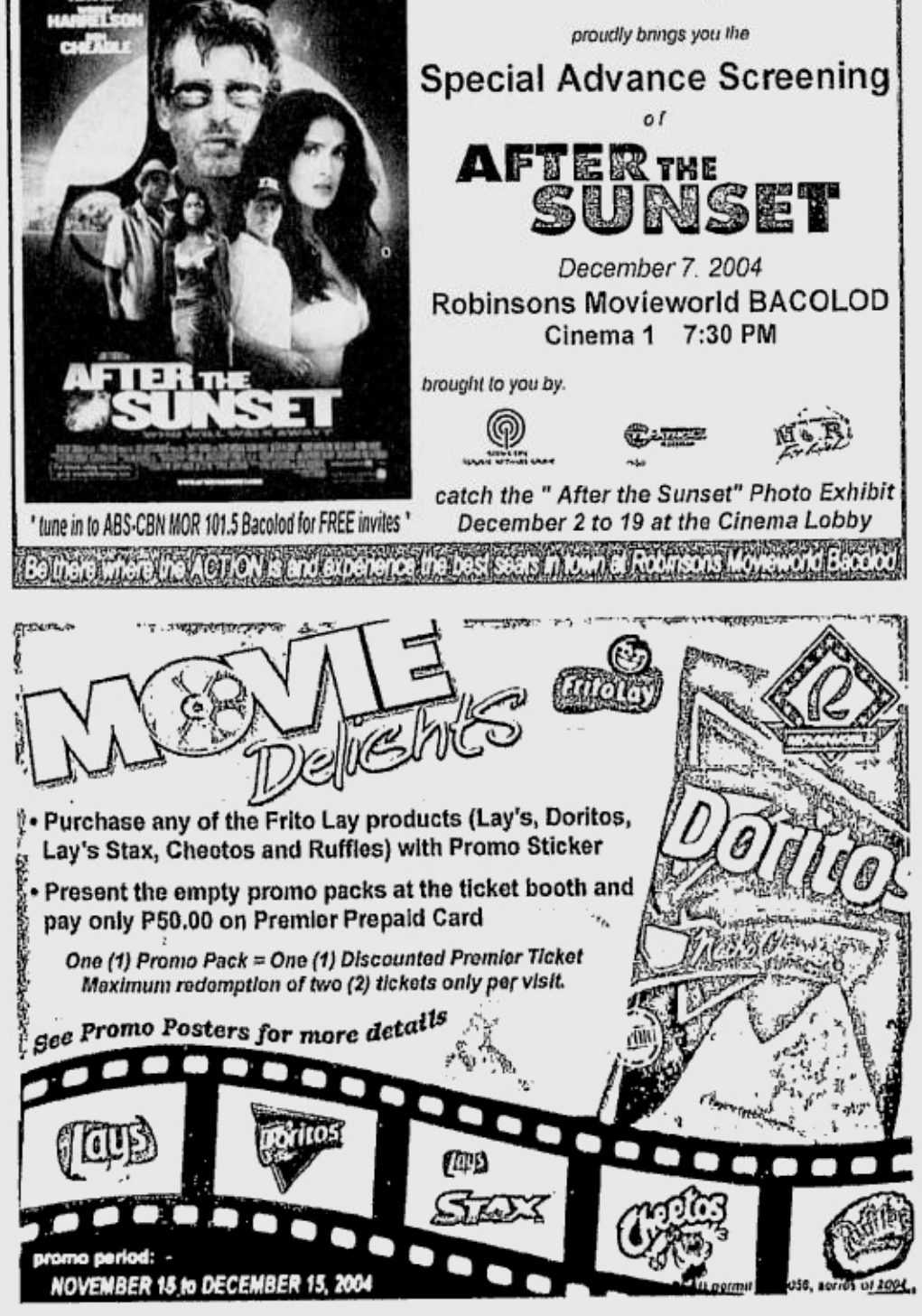
Live-in couple **Carmina Villaroel** and **Zoren Legaspi** were seen shopping for toys at Rustan's at the Alabang Town Center one Saturday afternoon. The stars are the parents of 3-year-old twins, a boy and a girl. Carmina was in a T-shirt and capri pants and no makeup; Zoren was in a T-shirt, denim jeans and rubber shoes.







PIONEER FILMS and CINEMAS
proudly brings you the
Special Advance Screening
of
AFTER THE SUNSET
December 7, 2004
Robinsons Movieworld BACOLOD
Cinema 1 7:30 PM
brought to you by.
'tune in to ABS-CBN MOR 101.5 Bacolod for FREE invites'
catch the "After the Sunset" Photo Exhibit
December 2 to 19 at the Cinema Lobby
Be there where the ACTION is and experience the best seats in town at Robinsons Movieworld Bacolod



See'mall!

AYALA CINEMAS THX

Movies/schedules may change without prior notice. For verification call 729-7777

ATC (Alabang Town Center)	G1 (Glorietta 1)	G4 (Glorietta 4)		GB3 (Greenbelt 3)	ACC (Ayala Center Cebu)
1 BRIDGET JONES: THE EDGE OF REASON	1 THE POLAR EXPRESS	1 THE INCREDIBLES	5 THE POLAR EXPRESS	1 NATIONAL TREASURE 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30	1 ALEXANDER
2 NATIONAL TREASURE	2 PASIYAM	2 NATIONAL TREASURE	6 ALEXANDER	2 BRIDGET JONES 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00, 11:20	2 BRIDGET JONES: THE EDGE OF REASON
3 ALEXANDER		3 BRIDGET JONES: 1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30	7 SEED OF CHUCKY	3 THE INCREDIBLES 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30	3 FIRST DAUGHTER
4 THE POLAR EXPRESS	BRIDGET JONES: THE EDGE OF REASON	4 CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS		4 THE POLAR EXPRESS 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30	4 NATIONAL TREASURE
5 SEED OF CHUCKY	4 NATIONAL TREASURE	GB1 (Greenbelt 1)		5 ALEXANDER 1:15, 4:25, 7:35, 10:45	5 THE POLAR EXPRESS
		1 ALEXANDER 11:45, 2:40, 5:50, 9:00			
		2 BRIDGET JONES: THE EDGE OF REASON 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40			

At the Activity Center

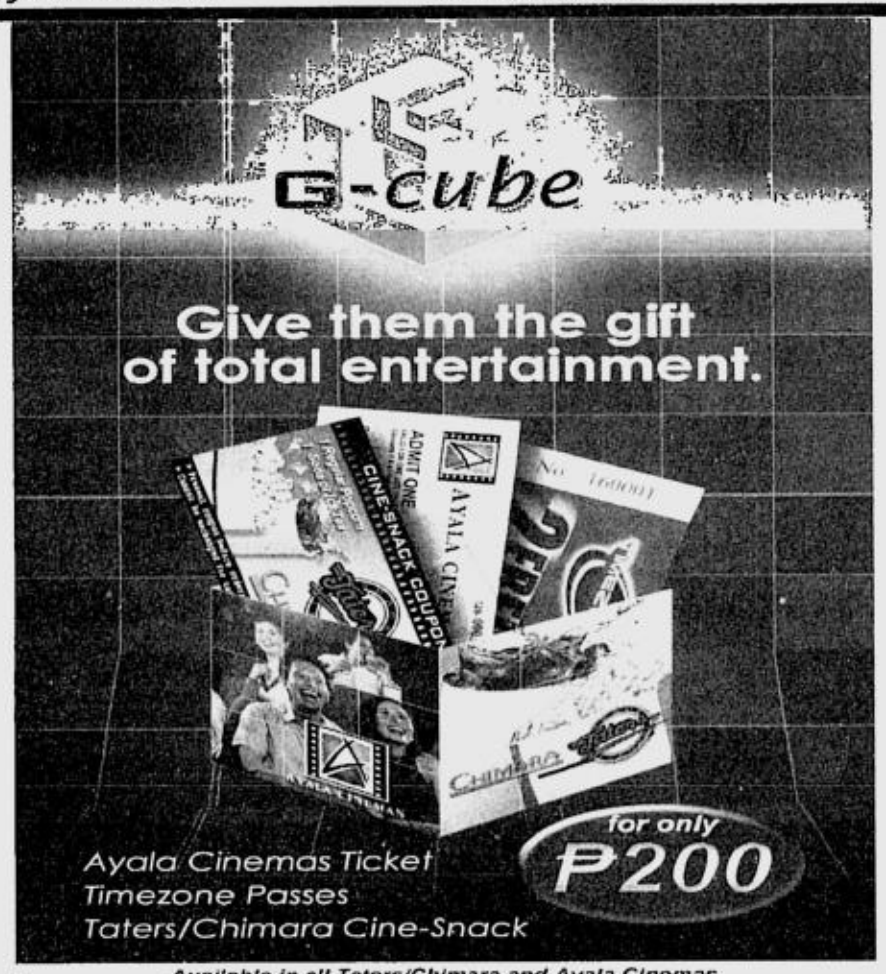
GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	AYALA CENTER CEBU
ISUZU CAR EXHIBIT December 6 to 12, 2004	ALADDIN & JASMINE GETS STARSTRUCK December 10 to 12, 2004	United Architects of the Phils. Nationwide Architecture Week December 7, 2004

Entertainment LIVE!

GREENBELT 2	GREENBELT 3
GREENBELT 2: MUSIC STYLES EVERY THURSDAYS TO SUNDAYS (7-10pm) PIDO (Thu), ACOUSTIC JIVE (Fri), FIRST CIRCLE (Sat)	CHRISTMAS CAROLS AT GREENBELT 3 U.P. Singing Ambassadors (Dec. 11), U.P. Concert Chorus (Dec. 12)

REPERTORY PHILIPPINES presents THE WIZARD OF OZ at REP's GLOBE THEATER - November 13 to December 19, 2004

Ayala MUSEUM — Visit the New Ayala Museum located beside Greenbelt 4 along Makati Avenue. For inquiries, please call 757-7117



Available in all Taters/Chimara and Ayala Cinemas
Glorietta 1 & 4, Greenbelt 1 & 3, Alabang Town Center and Ayala Center Cebu

TIMEZONE · Taters Chimara

Ayala 's THX Certified Cinemas offer moviegoers the ultimate cinematic experience - because our auditoriums are designed, constructed, installed and tested to ensure optimum movie performance, *as the director intended.*

THX CERTIFIED CINEMAS — ALABANG TOWN CENTER GLORIETTA 4 • GREENBELT 3 — True To Life. True To Movies — AYALA CINEMAS

No more waiting in line! Purchase your tickets online using cash or credit!

MPASS the country's first and only online prepaid ticketing system that allows you to purchase tickets online in just 3 easy steps!

1. BUY CREDITS at the Greenbelt 3 Sureseats Cinema Counter.
2. LOAD ACCOUNT online when you log on to www.sureseats.com
3. WATCH A MOVIE no need to claim tickets 45 minutes ahead of time.

CUSTOMER SERVICE TEXT HOTLINE: 0917-6095900 • CUSTOMER SERVICE HOTLINE: Glorietta - 752-7272; from 10am to 8pm • Greenbelt - 757-4853; from 11am to 12mn • Alabang Town Center - 842-2782; from 10am to 8pm Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231-5342 loc 324 • AYALA CINEMA LINKS: For screening times call 729-7777. Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart). Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

AYALA CENTER · ALABANG TOWN · AYALA CENTER CEBU — Lovemall!

Chilly weather music and fine food ...

From page A27

On Dec. 31, ring in the New Year with the dynamic and refreshingly vibrant Forte Band led by seasoned performers Pat Castillo, Jakiri and Chito Ilagan. This is not your usual retro band. With music best described as retro-fusion, it dishes out its own version of hits from the '50s to '90s artists like Louis Armstrong, Norah Jones and Guns N' Roses.

Chef Billy King will serve up a hearty New Year's Eve barbecue dinner buffet at P750 for adults and P400 for children 12 years old and below, with a complimentary welcome drink and a glass of champagne.

From Dec. 20 to Jan. 1, 2005, the popular Piano Bar at Camp John Hay Manor will feature resident pianist David Tabligan playing his soulful, romantic arrangements from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. followed by the versatile On-Q Band from 10 p.m. to 12 midnight. Enjoy the fine sounds as you sit by the fireplace and savor the cool-weather favorite, cheese fondue, perfect with a cool, crisp white wine, or the prawn and vegetable tempura basket with hot or cold sake.

The Manor lobby will resonate with the angelic voices of children's choirs from various Baguio schools from Dec. 16 to 24, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Dare to be different during the holidays. Experience the unique, thoroughly invigorating Baguio scene.

For ticket reservations to "Forest Fever," call the Manor Executive Office, (6374) 446-0231 ext. 1054, the Manila Sales office, (632) 6876-710, or e-mail reservations@capjohnhayhotels.com, or sales@campjohnhayhotels.com.

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Target Mall (Sta. Rosa, Laguna) tel (049) 837.0926
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 (DTS) RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 PASIYAM
2 (DTS) AFTER THE SUNSET
3 (DOLBY) TAXI
4 ALEXANDER

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall (Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 BCUZ OF U
2 (DOLBY) ALEXANDER
3 (DTS) TAXI
4 PASIYAM

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix (Urdaneta) tel (075) 568.6771
1 SAFTER THE SUNSET
2 BCUZ OF U
3 (DOLBY) SURVIVING CHRISTMAS

Lianas MovieCity (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) AFTER THE SUNSET
2 NAKAW NA SANDALI
3 (DTS) ALEXANDER
4 TAXI
5 PASIYAM

Mega Center Mall (Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283
1 BCUZ OF U
2 ALEXANDER
3 (DTS) BEFORE SUNSET
4 (DOLBY) THE INCREDIBLE

Fiesta World Mall (Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 AFTER THE SUNSET
2 NATIONAL TREASURE
3 TAXI
4 FOREVER MY LOVE

Cinema 2000 Metrotown (Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 BCUZ OF U
2 WICKER PARK
3 (DOLBY) OUT OF REACH
4 (DTS) TAXI

Jade Cinema (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) ALEXANDER
2 SAW
3 (DTS EX) BRIDGET JONES
4 NATIONAL TREASURE

Cine Nepo (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 BCUZ OF U
2 ALEXANDER
3 (DOLBY) NATIONAL TREASURE
4 (DTS) BRIDGET JONES

Cine Nepo (Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489
1 BCUZ OF U
2 WICKER PARK
3 (DOLBY) AFTER THE SUNSET
4 (DTS) BEFORE SUNSET

Centre Plaza Cinema (Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 SKY CAPTAIN
2 SHARK TALE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Plaridel) tel (044) 7953320
1 PASIYAM
2 BCUZ OF U
3 (DOLBY) NATIONAL TREASURE

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

MOVIEWORLD

CINEMA ACCESS 635-5555 FOR ALL BRANCHES

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

• REGIONAL CINEMAS •

STA. ROSA (049) 837-0907	LIPA (043) 757-3684, (043) 312-8870
1 ALEXANDER	1 AFTER THE SUNSET
2 PA-SIYAM	2 SAW
3 AFTER THE SUNSET	3 THE GRUDGE
4 TAXI	4 TAXI
5 NATIONAL TREASURE	5 NATIONAL TREASURE
DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125, (046) 416-4332	**ANGELES (045) 892-2348**
1 FIRST DAUGHTER	1 NATIONAL TREASURE
2 AFTER THE SUNSET	2 SAW
3 SURVIVING CHRISTMAS	3 BRIDGET JONES 2
4 NATIONAL TREASURE	4 ALEXANDER
5 SEED OF CHUCKY	
IMUS (046) 875-3838, (046) 471-8188	**STARMILLS (045) 875-1927, (045) 981-5270**
1 SURVIVING CHRISTMAS	1 SAW
2 AFTER THE SUNSET	2 PA-SIYAM
3 PA-SIYAM	3 BRIDGET JONES 2
4 NATIONAL TREASURE	4 NATIONAL TREASURE
5 ALEXANDER	5 ALEXANDER
6 SEED OF CHUCKY	6 SUPERBABIES: BABY GENIUSES 2
BACOLOD (034) 441-0453, (034) 441-0459	**ILOILO (033) 338-8070**
1 ALEXANDER	1 NATIONAL TREASURE
2 THE INCREDIBLES	2 PA-SIYAM
3 THE MANCHURIAN CANDIDATE	3 ALEXANDER
4 THE GRUDGE	4 THE MANCHURIAN CANDIDATE
5 THE FORGOTTEN	5 BEFORE SUNSET
6 SURVIVING CHRISTMAS	6 THE INCREDIBLES

What's Happening

Special Advance Screening
December 7, 2004
Robinsons Movieworld
BACOLOD
Cinema 1 7:30 PM
* tune in to ABS-CBN MOR Bacolod for FREE invites *

The Perfect Gift All Year Round

A Pre Paid Movie Pass to the Hottest Seats in town.
Get Special discounts for volume purchases!
For marketing and events/reservations please call:
Marketing Services Department at 687-7845 to 47 locals 14 and 15

LADINE Roxas

Ladine; totally different

SHE'S often out of the country, competing in international song festivals or simply performing. Now, award-winning Ladine Roxas hopes to stay home longer so she can share her talents, this time with her countrymen.

For the first project under Primeline Inc., which counts her as its newest talent, Ladine is performing in a series of shows at Merk's Bar and Bistro on all Mondays of December. The series, "Here I am... Ladine," shows a totally different artist from the one we know who belts out difficult melodies of international festival quality. This time, she's more relaxed, more laid-back, singing songs that range from good old favorites to pop. "The repertoire consists of crossover songs, standards from the '70s to the '80s that are in danger of extinction because of the prevalence of hip hop and their kind," says Ladine.

She promises to get up close and personal with the audience as she interprets Anita Baker, James Ingram and Michael McDonald's songs and gives in to audience requests.

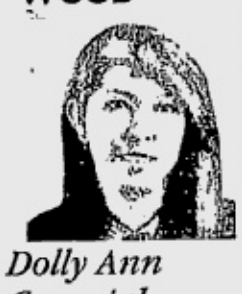
"I will just go with the flow, to where the audience will take me," she adds. She promises that no two shows will be alike, as she presents a different guest each week. Last night, she had Rizza Navales. On Dec. 13, it's 604; Dec. 20, Tin Arnaldo and Dec. 27, singer-comedienne Bernie Uy.

Ladine is conceptualizing her third album, for release in mid-2005.

'EDGE OF REASON'

Defying the elements to meet Renee Z

DOLLY WOOD



Dolly Ann Carvajal

WHEN I flew to Taipei with my fun colleague, **Walden Belen** of Manila Bulletin, to interview **Renee Zellweger** for her latest movie, "Bridget Jones Edge of Reason," I was on the edge of my plane seat all the way.

Typhoon Yoyong was raging, and I knew it could move in our direction at any blessed moment. I just consoled myself with the thought that, just like the character Bridget Jones, I was in for some out-of-this-world adventure. Good thing I somehow imbibed Bridget's grace under pressure. I reached Taipei in one piece. In the absence of heroes, I turn to Bridget Jones for inspiration. And so have most women who are caught in the cycle of love and pain.

Defying the elements was well worth it—a small price to pay for meeting Renee up close and personal. She was genuinely nice and oh so warm. Before we started the interview she even told me that it was brave of me to fly in such stormy weather. She also said she felt sorry for the Filipinos devastated by the recent typhoons. It reminded her of the time she was growing up in Texas, she said, when her family had to contend with typhoons, too, every so often.

Renee was clad in a simple black top and denim jeans. She hardly had any makeup on. The Bridget Jones star has shed all the extra pounds that were a requisite for her role. She's now turned brunette for a film she's wrapping up in Canada. Like a little girl, she hollered for her assistant and requested that her cute little yellow teddy bear be brought to her. She clutched the bear as she faced the Asian press. Renee didn't mind that the sound system started conking out at some point. She never stopped smiling even as she sat through the "Chinese translation" portions.

When I kissed her goodbye, I was surprised that she even noticed the scent I was wearing. "You smell exactly like my best friend!" she said. It was my turn to smile. I may never get the chance to really be her best friend, but for a brief moment in Taipei, she made me feel that. Oh well... the next best thing, I guess, is having Bridget Jones as my best friend. After watching "Edge of Reason," I know most women will agree that we all have an ally for life.

Here are some highlights of my "girl talk" with Renee:

I heard that you had some apprehension about playing Bridget Jones again?

I was a bit hesitant because of the physical transformation I had to do over again but I feel responsible to all the women who relate to Bridget and also to **Helen Fielding**. I didn't want it to be a superficial visitation of character. It's important that the vulnerability of Bridget be maintained.

"IT'S QUITE a privilege to affect women in a strong way."

You make losing weight sound so easy!

It's just part of the process. I had to look like Bridget as she is described in the book. Now that I've stopped playing her character I've stopped looking and talking like her. To change your body in a brief period of time makes you feel the repercussions when you go back to the gym. I've stopped calling the pizza delivery man. The best exercise I got while doing the film was going up and down the mountain slopes during the hilarious ski scene. I did all the stunts myself. I'm a better skier now than when we shot that scene. The idiosyncrasies are so perfect!

What's it like working with Hugh Grant and Colin Firth?

They are both from theater. Both very cerebral and professional. We all have a serious work ethic but we also laugh a lot.

In real life would you fall for the Mark Darcy or Daniel Cleaver type?

Are we talking about Hugh and Colin or their roles (laughs)? I'm not that simple. Hugh and Colin are both lovely men. I would say I'd go for a nice amalgamation of the better qualities of Mark and Daniel.

What was the most challenging scene for you in the movie?

It was quite difficult for me to prance around wearing a pink bra than changing my body physically. I have to separate my emotions from what I'm doing. It may not seem like something extraordinary but it is to me. Also the porch scene with Hugh. We had to find the right balance. It had to be genuine and appropriately timed.

In what ways are you like Bridget Jones?

Like her I always pick myself up after I fall. I go fast forward!

Did you ever write a diary like Bridget?

Yup, but nothing for movie material... although Oprah has been convincing me to write a book.

What's the best part of playing Bridget Jones?

It's quite a privilege to affect women in a strong way. Like Bridget has given way to a whole new culture. I also enjoyed experiencing culture from the inside when we went on location in Thailand.

FORTE BAND

Chilly weather music and fine food at John Hay

IN THIS time of merrymaking, the chilly Baguio weather beckons. The mountain city's Camp John Hay welcomes you with a lineup of holiday celebrations complete with fine food, wine and music for the whole family.

SHOW TIME

Following the success of last year's "Forest Fever" musicfest, Camp John Hay continues the tradition and celebrates December's nights with three nights of music, bonfire and barbecue, Dec. 29 to 31 at the Garden Wing of the CAP-John Hay Trade and Convention Center starting at 8 p.m. The Garden Wing will light up with a cozy bonfire mixed with the heady smell of succulent barbecue on the grill.

On Dec. 29, be mesmerized by the dynamic beat of rhythm and blues band, Brown Flava. On Dec. 30, the reggae show band Space Flower will enthrall you with its distinctive style, refreshing repertoire and compelling stage presence. Both bands already have a loyal following that covers a wide age group from Baguio's expat and local community.

Tickets to the Brown Flava and Space Flower performances at the Garden Wing are P100, consummable.

CHILLY/ A26

From the nation's No. 1 Newspaper:
INQUIRER
JOBMarket ONLINE
VISIT US AT www.jobmarketonline.com

NOW SHOWING
MTRCB ▶ R-13 STRICTLY FOR 18YRS. OLD AND ABOVE
POWERPLANT • GLORIETTA • G-BELT • MARKETMARKET • ALABANGTOWN • FILINVEST • METROPOLIS • ROBINSON-galleria • ROBINSON pioneer • ROBINSON-ermita • CINERAMA • ROBINSON nova • ROBINSON dasma • ROBINSON-imus • GOTESCOCOM • ALIMALL • GOTESCO ortigas • SIA LUCIA • METROEAST • WALTERMART-calamba • LIANAS • PAVILION-binan • ROBINSON sta rosa
MAPAPAOS KA SA KASISIGAW
Featuring the voice of
BILLY BOYD
(of "The Lord of the Rings")
CHUCKY
TIFFANY
JENNIFER TILLY
REDMAN
SEED OF CHUCKY
WELCOME TO THE FAMILY
ROGUE

SM CINEMA movietime
moviepickoftheWeek
RENÉE ZELLWEGER HUGH GRANT COLIN FIRTH
BRIDGET JONES
THE EDGE OF REASON
SAME BRIDGET. BRAND NEW DIARY
Big Laughs Big Love Big Problem
Universal Pictures and Working Title Films Presents A Sarah Radclyffe/Jonathan Cavendish Production
Miramax Films Presents A Sarah Radclyffe/Jonathan Cavendish Production
A Sharon Maguire Film
Bridget Jones's Entertainment Corporation

I whattowatch I

ALEXANDER Subject to MTRCB RATING
SM Baguio Cinema 4
SM Cebu Cinema 8
SM Cagayan Cinema 1
SM Pampanga Cinema 3
SM Bacoor Cinema 3
SM Iloilo Cinema 3
SM Davao Cinema 1

BCUZ OF U Subject to MTRCB RATING
SM Dasmariñas Cinema 3
SM Davao Cinema 5
SM Batangas Cinema 2
SM Lucena Cinema 3
SM Bacoor Cinema 4
SM Cebu Cinema 7
SM Pampanga Cinema 1

THE INCREDIBLES MTRCB Rating: G
SM Iloilo Cinema 4

BUNNY GUARDS SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING
SM Davao Cinema 2

NATIONAL TREASURE MTRCB Rating: G
SM Iloilo Cinema 6
SM Pampanga Cinema 4
SM Marilao Cinema 3
SM Batangas Cinema 3
SM Davao Cinema 6
SM Bacoor Cinema 5
SM Cebu Cinema 1
SM Lucena Cinema 1
SM Dasmariñas Cinema 1
SM Baguio Cinema 1

THE POLAR EXPRESS MTRCB RATING: G
SM Batangas Cinema 3
SM Bacoor Cinema 7
SM Cebu Cinema 3

SANTA SANTITA MTRCB Rating: PG13
SM Bacoor Cinema 1

Movies are subject to change without prior notice • For complete movie schedule, visit www.smcinema.com

MTRCB ▶ R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OLD AND ABOVE
梁朝偉 TONY LEUNG CHIU-WAI
Oriental Hotel 東方酒店
章子怡 ZHANG ZIYI
王家衛 A WONG KAR WAI FILM
2046
BLOCK 2 PICTURES and PARADIS FILMS ORLY FILMS CLASSIC SRL SHANGHAI FILM GROUP CORPORATION PRESENT A JET TONE FILMS PRODUCTION
TONY LEUNG CHIU WAI GONG LI FAYE WONG TAKUYA KIMURA ZHANG ZIYI CARINA LAU KA LING CHANG CHEN and MAGGIE CHEUNG and KAR WAI WONG
WILLIAM CHANG SUK PING and ALFRED CHEUNG WAI MING and CHRISTOPHER DOYLE LAI YIU FAI KWAN PUN LEUNG and SHIGERU UMEBAYASHI PEER BABEN
WILLIAM CHANG SUK PING and JEAN-CLAUDE LETESSIER TO DOO CHIN JEFF BUF
BLK2 LG
OPENS TOMORROW

OPENS TOMORROW
MTRCB ▶ R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS AND UP
From the creators of The Ring and Ju-On : The Grudge 2
ONE MISSED CALL
Death Cannot Be Put On Hold .....
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

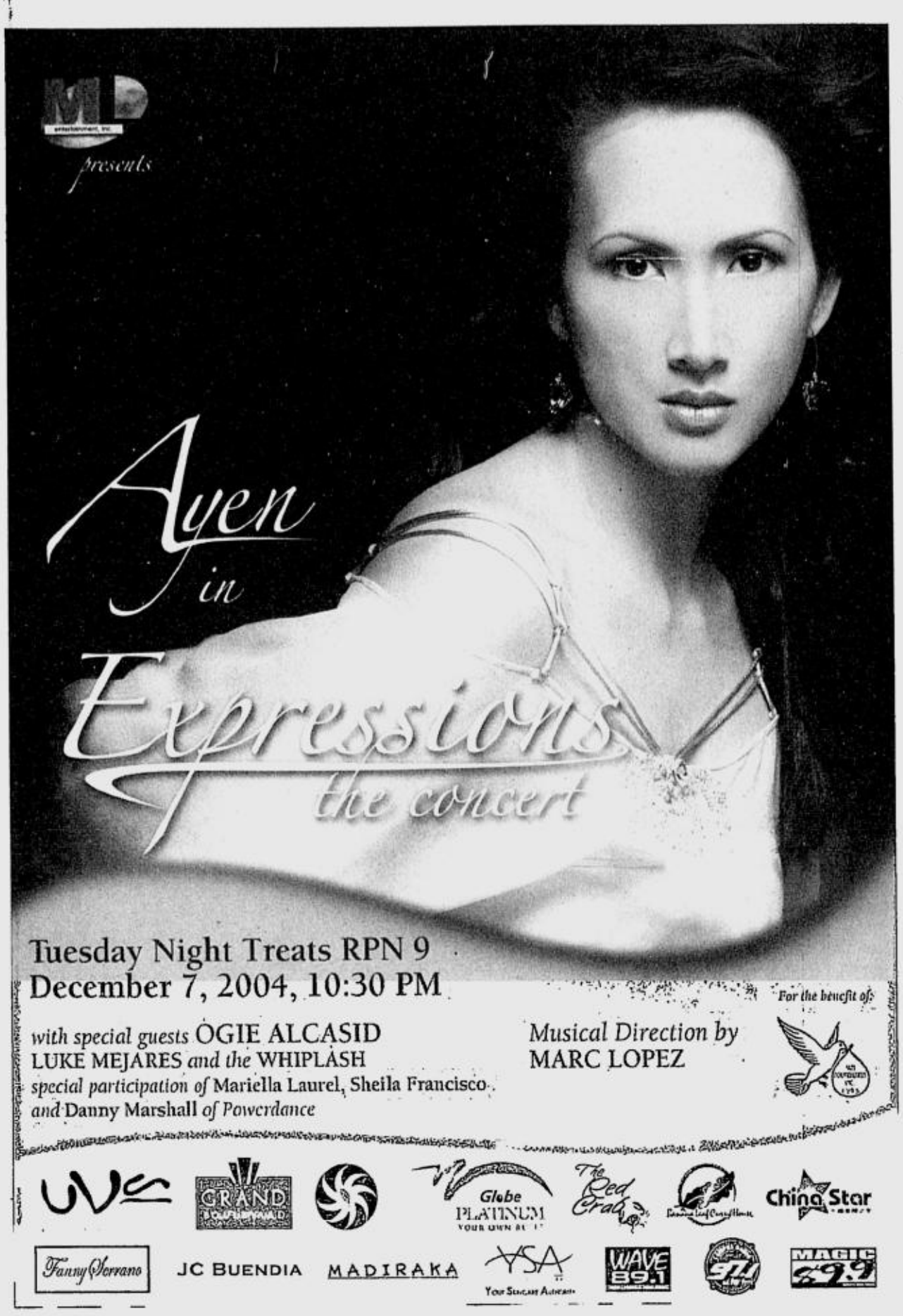
E-mail:
pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

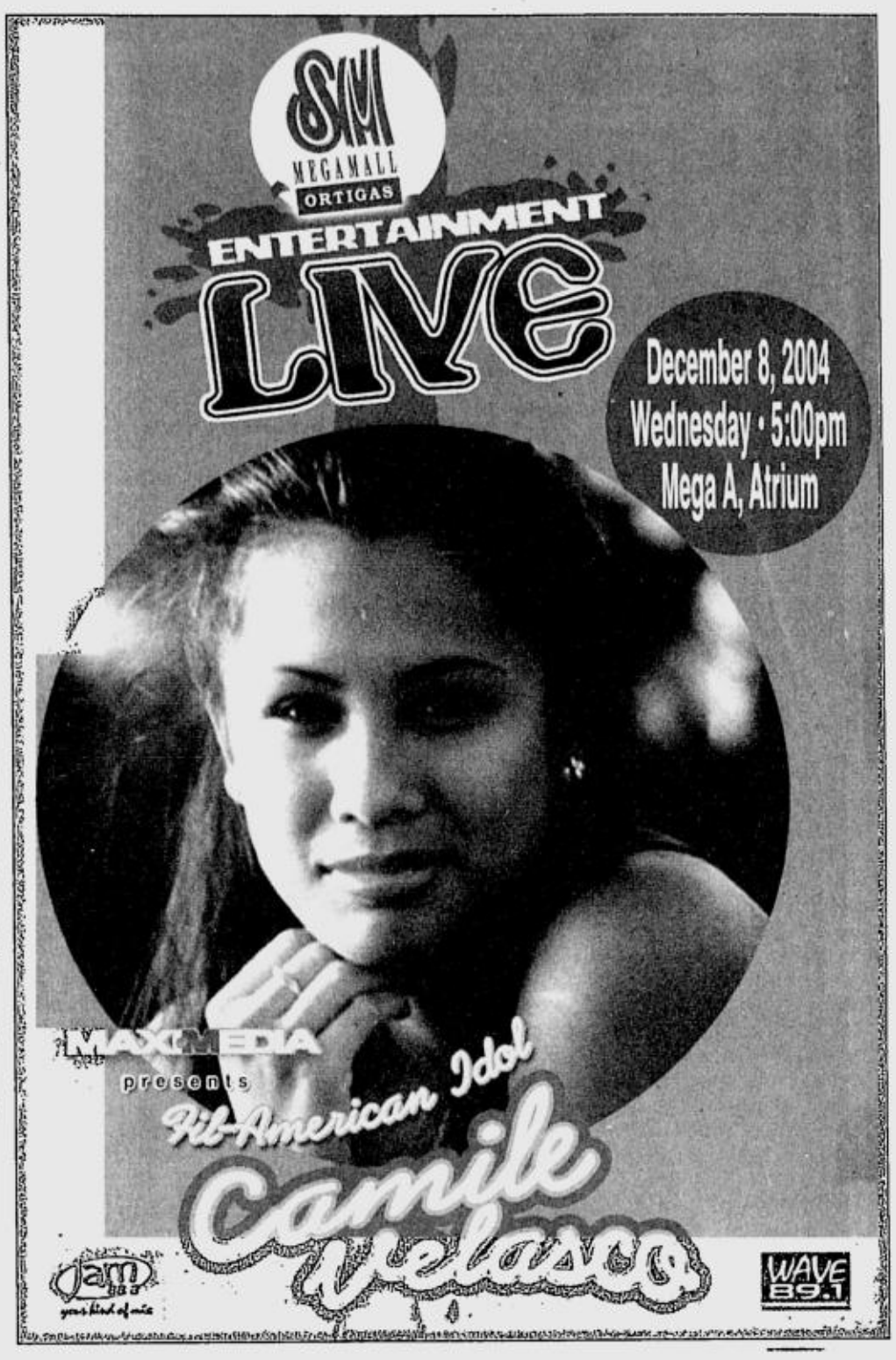
ENTERTAINMENT

Text us your feedback: inquirer ent name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Editor **Louie C. Camino**
Assistant Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

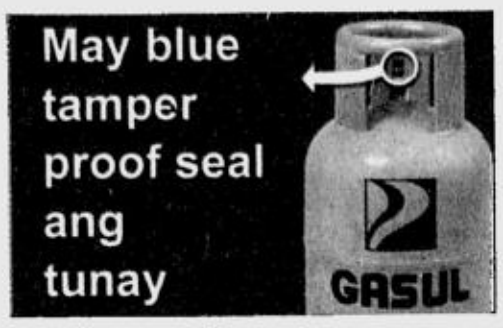
MEETING RENE ZELLWEGER /A27





Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABS-CBN 2				Showbiz No. 1	Sandara's Romance	Get Backers	Ragnarok	Masked Rider Ryuki	TV Patrol	Star Circle Nati Toon Quest	Krystala	Hiram	It Might Be You	Lovers In Paris	Bida Si Mistor Bida Si Mars			Insider	Pipol
NBN	Value Vision				Teledyaryo	Value Vision		APEC Primer 2		Network Forum		Teledyaryo		Muscovi Cup 2003				Auto Focus	
ABC 5	Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko	KNN	Anime Ring Kaisho				Sentro	Lizzie Mcguire	Three Blind Dates		Wow Mali		Big News	The Probe Team Documentaries		Race Hour	Bilboard On-Air		
GMA 7	Leya (2:45 PM)	Joyride (3:15 PM)	Snow Angel (3:45 PM)			One Piece	Witch Hunter Robin	Slam Dunk	24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Starstruck (8:45 PM)	Forever In My Heart (9:15 PM)		Bahay Mo Ba 'To?			Saksi
RPN 9	Metro TV Shopping			The Working President	JDJ		Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	Invader Zim	Entertainment Tonight	Ed		Ally McBeal	Agency		Newswatch Now	Tuesday Night Treat		
IBC 13		V League					IBC Express Balita		Home Shopping Network		Retro TV		Sulong APEC	Entrepinoy	Good Take		IBC News Tonite	Up Close And Personal	
Solar		Wwe Raw					Mutant League	Heavy Gear	Maxsteel	Dungeons And Dragons	Stargate SG1		Soldier Of Fortune	RHDYLA		The Wire		Oz	
Nickelodeon	Dora, The Explorer	Little Bear	Blues Clues	SpongeBob SquarePants	All That		Are You Afraid of the Dark?	100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd	The Amanda Show	The Brother's Garcia	Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	Are You Afraid of the Dark?	All That	100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd	The Amanda Show	Rocket Power	The Wild Thornberrys	The Brother's Garcia
MYX		Urban MYX	MYX Backtrax	Pop MYX	OPM MYX		Take 5	My MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Mellow MYX	Rock MYX	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	Top Of The Pops	MYX Remixes	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX	Mellow MYX
ETC		Meet My Folks		The Today Show			Starting Over		NBC Nightly News	Entertainment Tonight	Will & Grace	Knock First	One Tree Hill		The O.C.		Tonight Show With Jay Leno		Blind Date	Fifth Wheel
Cinema One		Narito Ang Puso Ko					Sugatang Puso				Tesligo				Entang and Mokong				Ngayong Nandito Ka	
Studio 23	Bewitched	Urban MYX	MYX Backtrax	Pop MYX	OPM MYX		Take 5	My MYX	X-Men Evolution	Samurai Deeper Kyo	Wazzup Wazzup	Fightbox	Smallville		Angel		News Central	The Oprah Winfrey Show		The Men's Room
AXN		The Amazing Race		Maximum Exposure			Fear Factor		Rave	Rave	Boomtown		Ripley's Believe It or Not		Alias		The Amazing Race		AXN Shakedown	
Star World	Becker	The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Home Improvement		Baywatch Hawaii		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Just Shoot Me	John Doe		The Apprentice		UC: Undercover		Just Shoot Me	John Doe
CNN				Business International			Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport
National Geographic	On Assignment	Thrill Seekers		Adventure Starts Here With Toyota			Treasure Seekers		The Snake Wranglers	Croc Chronicles Dr Brady Barr	Wild		About Asia		Nati Geographic Specials		Thrill Seeker		The Sea Hunters	
Solar Sports		FIVB Beach World Tour Milano WF			IBF China Super Grand Prix WS			Arthur Gander Memorial '04						NBA TV Daily	Detroit vs. Dallas (replay)					NBA Action
Lifestyle Network	Secret Gardens Of	The Fix	Mission Organization	Carol Duvall	Molto Mario		Hot Off The Grill	Good Eats	Extreme Cuisine	Unwrapped	Passion For Dessert	It's Good To Be	A Second Look		Look For Less	Style Star	Read & Track	Back To Basics	Planet Parent	Hot Off The Grill
HBO	Brooklyn Babylon			Detective School Drop-Out				The Final Curtain			Chants (6:50 PM)			Doc Hollywood (8:20 PM)			Sex And The City 01. The Cold War	Carnivale 10: Hot And Bothered		Blood Work (11:25 PM)
Star Movies		Mojave Moon			The Touch (4:45 PM)					Opening Night	Dragon The Bruce Lee Story				Rushmore			Loser (10:35PM)		
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Richie Rich	Baby Looney Tunes		Sylvester & Twisty Mysteries	Police Academy	He-Man & The Masters Of The Universe	Teen Titans	Yu-Gi-Oh!	Gundam Seed	The Looney Tunes Show		Courage The Cowardly Dog	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	The Addams Family	The Funky Phantom	Boomerang - Boomeraction	Yu-Gi-Oh!
ESPN				Eng Premier League Highlights 04/05			Pool/Snooker World Pool Master '04		Big 12 Conference Basketball 2004-05				Sportscenter Taiwan	NFL Football - Dallas vs Seattle						Sportscenter Taiwan
Disney Channel	Kim Possible	Totally Spies	Lizzie Mcguire	Even Stevens	That's So Raven		Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	The Legend Of Tarzan	Lilo & Stitch/Unlikative Bunny	America's Funniest Home Video	Wonderful World Of Disney			My Wife And Kids	That's So Raven	According To Jim	America's Funniest Home Video	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Cinemax				Strictly Ballroom (4:15 PM)					The Flash			Undercover Lover			A Few Good Men				Skeppstrakor (11:15PM)	
Hallmark Channel	Mad About You	Shattered City					Play With Me Sesame	Sesame Street		Bewitched	Mysterious Ways		Judging Amy		Shattered City			Wire In The Blood (10:35PM)		Mysterious Ways
Discovery Channel		Civilisations					Wild Discovery		Ultimate Discovery		Rides		Human Discovery		Wild Discovery		Ultimate Discovery		Scence Mysteries	
MTV Philippines		MTV Supahstar				Non-Stop Hits	CNN/ MTV Staying Alive		MTV Get Spotted	MTV Lovefine	MTV Lokal		MTV Upgraded	MTV Bokshan	TRL		Punk'D	Wildboyz	VH1 Hits/ Video Collection	
Sports Plus			Porsche mid 2&4	World Golf C'ship World Cup Day-I							NFL						FED Cup SFinal Russia vs Austria			
EWTN	Pope John Paul's Legacy To The Family	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Mysteries Of The Rosary	My Little Angels	Angel Force		The Holy Rosary With Mother Angelica and the Nuns Of Our Lady Of Angels Monastery	Fr. Groeschel	Catholic Morality & The Catechism	EWTN Gallery	The Journey Home		Does The Church Still Teach That	Lord, Have Mercy	Daily Mass		Angelus (10:15PM)	We Are One Body	Web Of Faith	

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2004

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BUSINESS

E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inq7money.net

Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

Text us your feedback: inquirer biz name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Malacañang still hopeful on averting rating downgrade

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

LIKE a student wary of getting a failing grade, Malacañang is "hopeful" that credit-rating companies would give the country an "A" for its effort in solving its fiscal problems as it hinted for the first time that it might fall short of getting new tax measures legislated before the end of the year.

"I hope the rating agencies would appreciate the fact that Congress is doing all it can. There is a strong executive-legislative endeavor to see to it that the major revenue measures are passed," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in a briefing.

But with less than three weeks before lawmakers go on their annual Christmas break, Bunye admitted that Malacañang has adjusted its expectations on when Congress would pass at least four new tax measures.

"There is a reconfiguration of some revenue measures...in terms of timing as to when these measures will be passed," said Bunye, who refused to elaborate further. "The total tax reform measure will be pushed hard and what is important is there is an agreement that the general objectives of these reform measures will be achieved."

When asked if Malacañang was still confident of having new tax measures before the New Year and avert a credit-rating downgrade, Bunye replied: "(We're) hoping for the best."

President Macapagal-Arroyo had previously exuded confidence that Congress would pass new tax measures by December to convince credit-rating agencies that the government was serious in its bid to cure its fiscal deficit problem.

With the President's majority support in Congress not enough to pass her tax package, Bunye was hopeful that credit-rating agencies would also consider other positive developments recently such as the robust economic data for the third quarter, the Supreme Court decision opening up the mining industry to foreign investors, and the sale of the Masinloc power plant.

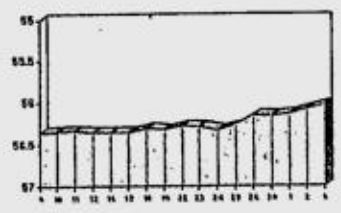
"These are some positive developments that we think should be taken with other factors that they are assessing," Bunye said.

But it remains to be seen whether Moody's International Services and Fitch Ratings would be swayed from cutting down the country's ratings and making it a high credit risk without the revenue measures approved by Congress. Credit-rating agencies have already warned that a credit downgrade was imminent unless the government showed concrete proof to allay their fears on its fiscal position.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE



₱ 56.025 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Dec. 6, 2004

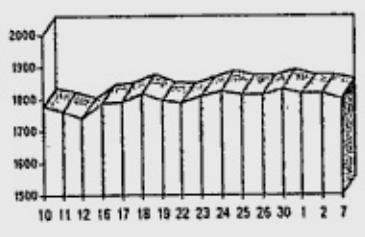
¥ 102.37 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Dec. 6, 2004

GOLD: $ 450.00-450.50
per ounce Hong Kong, Dec. 6, 2004

STOCK MARKET

Shares end lower on downgrade concerns

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



SHARES ended lower yesterday, weighed down by worries about a possible downgrade of the country's credit rating by Fitch Rating and by profit-taking in major blue chips, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index closed 13.62 points, or 0.7 percent, lower to 1,803.37, after edging up 0.52 point to 1,816.99 on Thursday.

(See stock market report on Page B2)

The market's decline was due to a "confluence of factors," said Rommel Macapagal, president of Westlink Global Equities. These included the possibility of a likely two-step credit rating downgrade for the Philippines as well as the impact of back-to-back storms on the economy and inflation.

Analysts said that while a one-notch rating downgrade has already been discounted by the market, a two-notch downgrade will further undermine the government's borrowing costs.

Fitch, which rates the Philippines two notches below investment grade with a stable outlook, is scheduled to release its report this week, and the government is bracing for a two-step downgrade. *AP*

91-day treasury bill rate eases to 7.79%

By Michelle V. Remo

BANKS showed a strong appetite for the 91-day treasury bills yesterday, the last auction for the year for short-term government securities, pulling down its rate by 8.8 basis points to 7.79 percent.

The volume of bids for the 91-day bills, whose rate is used as a benchmark by banks in pricing their loans, reached P7.72 billion, or much higher than the P4.5-billion offering of the government.

Deputy Treasurer Eduardo Mendiola said the high demand for the three-month debt paper was an indication of high market liquidity and the need of banks to park their available funds prior to the closing of auctions for the Christmas season.

The decline in the rate of the 91-day bills showed no signs of market concern over the possible downgrade of the country's credit rating by Fitch Ratings and Moody's Investors Service.

"The rate was better than we expected. Banks might have factored it in already in previous auctions," Mendiola said in a press briefing

91-DAY/ B3

Gov't studies lifting of all VAT exemptions

THE GOVERNMENT'S economic team is considering removing the value-added tax exemption of more products and services, with the objective of raising more revenue and fully enhancing the VAT system.

The Department of Finance, in coordination with other economic agencies, has submitted a proposed bill lifting the VAT exemptions of several products and services. Congress is deliberating on this bill.

However, Finance Undersecretary Grace Tan said the economic team was looking at expanding the list of products and services whose VAT exemption will be lifted.

"Removing the VAT exemption only of the initially selected products and services will not be enough to help the government earn what it should from VAT," another government source said.

The source said the economic team might even decide to lift all VAT exemptions so that the VAT system would be perfected.

"It will be better to remove all VAT exemptions so that the chain of the input-output credit system will be complete," the source said.

Tan also explained earlier that tax exemptions distorted the VAT system because it needed a broad base of taxpayers to properly implement the tax trail mechanism where taxpayers were required to declare their input and output VAT credits.

Under the existing bill that seeks to lift VAT exemptions, products and services to be covered include: services rendered by lawyers and doctors; sale or importation of coal, natural gas, and petroleum products; sale or importation of raw materials for petroleum products; importation of passenger and/or cargo vessels of more than 5,000 tons; sale and importation by cooperatives, and sale and importation of printing and publication books.

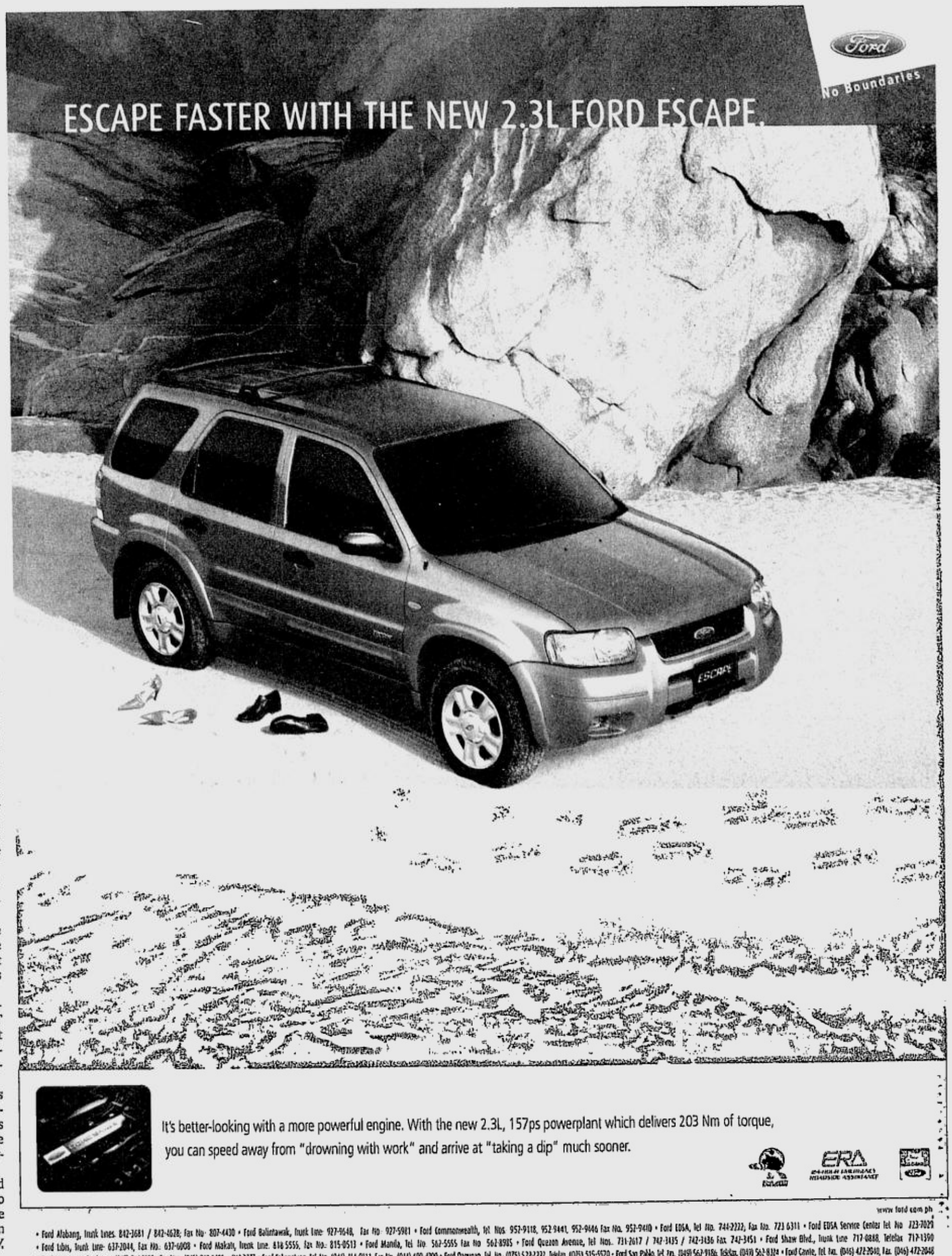
The bill, if passed into law, is expected to generate P10 billion in additional revenue a year.

Finance officials said the list should be expanded to make the VAT system more effective, although they did not say what other VAT-exempt products and services should be included in the expanded list.

DOF estimates showed that the government lost about P144 billion from VAT leakages in 2003 alone. The government collected only P135 billion in VAT payments last year, much lower than the expected collection of P279 billion.

The bill seeking to lift VAT exemptions is part of the Arroyo administration's proposal to rationalize fiscal incentives as one way to ease the government's huge budget deficit and a swollen debt burden.

Finance officials said the cash-starved government should do away with too many incentives since these were not the main consideration of businessmen in making investments anyway. *Michelle V. Remo*



Logging behind

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

THE MOST difficult part in any investigation of any disaster is, well, anybody who has any firsthand experience of the actual suffering is most likely dead.

That's actually the problem of this cute administration of Gloriaetta regarding the recent flooding and landslide in Quezon province which killed hundreds of people.

From media reports inspired by the Palace, we learn that this cute administration is exerting all effort—leaving no stone unturned, sparing no government limited resources—to solve the mystery behind who the Palace can blame for the disaster.

All right, so what else is new?

* * *

ANYWAY, Gloriaetta herself came out with media guns blazing, pinning the blaming outright on alleged "illegal" loggers.

The illegal loggers are, of course, all nameless, faceless criminals who are the worst enemies of the people. Otherwise, if this cute administration knows who they are, they would be in jail by now.

No names came out in the Palace's media blame-throwing. The actual real-life names came out in the form of business outfits. Some supposed "environmentalists," calling themselves the "multi-sectoral action group," released the names to media.

Whadayano, these are the companies which the government has allowed to carry out logging operations in the provinces of Aurora and Quezon. The usual suspects, in short!

* * *

NOW I did a little checking with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Its records show that, all in all, the DENR has so-called TLA, or "timber licensing agreements," with 18 companies.

Now the TLA is a mere privilege given by the state to private companies. The TLA is lower in rank than your Christmas gift to your mother-in-law. The government can get back the TLA anytime. Try doing that to your...

Anyway, official records also show that, of the 18 TLAs, only four are operating at the moment. And one of them is operating near the area where the disaster happened in northern Quezon.

That is the TLA under the name of Inter-Pacific Forest Resources Corp., or IFRC, which is supposedly owned and controlled by a lawyer named Romeo Roxas.

His is the only licensed logging operation in close proximity to the so-called "disaster" areas. These are the towns of Nakar, Infanta, and Real in the northern part of Quezon province.

From what I gathered, IFRC also operated near the Paltic town in Aurora province, where flooding also occurred. To think, there's a watershed in the area.

In the business, "watershed" automatically means "no," absolutely, "no logging."

The same company has operations at the southern tip of Aurora province. This is the logging operation which is actually nearest the disaster areas in Quezon.

Still, this particular IFRC operation is located in the southern part of Aurora province, which is near the boundary of Quezon.

Romeo Roxas, by the way, is the guy who became famous in the stock market for trying to list a real estate company that had questionable land documents.

* * *

ANYWAY, I just found out that the other companies which were mentioned by the supposed "environmentalists," as reported by the INQUIRER, actually do not have TLAs.

The others actually have what is known in the logging business as IFMA, or the "integrated forest management agreement."

The IFMA is a contract. It is a business deal between the government and the private company. Believe me, the IFMA goes through rigorous screening.

The screening is so rigorous, almost all of the companies that have been named by the supposed "environmentalists" are not operating despite having those IFMAs.

And why is that? Well, according to my informers in the DENR, they have yet to get DENR approval for their "operation plans." No operation plan, no operation!

* * *

I LEARNED from the DENR that only one of the companies in the news report is actually operating. It is the one called Industries Development Corp., or IDC, which has that so-called IFMA.

In the wood industry, the company is associated with a businessman named Joselito "Jojo" Ong, who belongs to a group that reportedly owns a furniture shop in Libis, Quezon City.

Still, IDC operates in the northern part of Aurora province. Its area, in other words, is quite far from the "disaster" areas, which are in the northern part of Quezon province. For the sake of Bong and Lito, Quezon is south of Aurora.

Another IFMA holder in the northern part of Aurora province is Toplite Lumber. From what I gathered, it already stopped operations about a year ago.

* * *

NOW, as I said, the flooding and landslide actually happened in the northern part of Quezon, particularly Nakar, Real and Infanta.

You know what, there are no (as in ZERO) licensed logging companies anywhere near or inside the disaster area.

The last known TLA there, based on DENR records, was cancelled during martial law.

But if you travel in the area, you can actually see a lot of sawmills. There are at least 20 sawmills. Again, that's AT LEAST 20. There may be more. Those were the only ones I discovered.

Question: Where do they get the logs? Where else, from illegal logging. And this happens in an area that became famous for the cantankerous issue called "log ban."

* * *

THAT'S a law, by the way, and in this country under this cute administration of Gloriaetta, we churn out laws which we cannot implement.

For whatever reason, nobody seems to follow the Clean Air Act, for instance, which is a law against pollution.

Look, we have one of the highest, if not actually the highest, pollution indexes in the whole wide world.

But we are not supposed to have pollution on paper. It's the law, right?

And so our wonderful Congress keeps on passing new laws which do not see the light of implementation.

Like it or not, anything which you task anybody to do, most especially the government, must cost some money.

Any action of the government needs funding. And I mean "anything" at all! In the government, as anywhere, nothing can move without funding.

That's the problem with the "log ban." We wrote the law, but we forgot to write down where to get the funding to implement it, and implement it strictly.

I say that, from now on, if Congress passes a law like the "log ban," it should pinpoint the specific revenue measure to implement it.

Or else the illegal loggers are always going to be one step ahead of us. What's that, logging behind?

* * *

IN THE aftermath of every disaster is blame-throwing. I think we need less politics in this country, and a bit more of science.

Let us, for instance, begin to list down the "high risk" settlement areas. Surely, history can tell us where the floodwaters from the rains usually pass. Then we will know where to prohibit settlements.

I talk of "high risk" settlement areas, because I just found out that the DENR has already analyzed one of the disaster areas as prone to landslide.

It is the town of Paltic in Aurora, which is right smack on the Dingalan-Gabaldon major fault line.

No wonder. The DENR scientists already warned that the area was prone to landslide. And so a lot of people put up houses all over the place.

Without the use of science, we therefore solve problems by throwing some blame around. As always, the blame is all too soon forgotten.

iBank plans Tier 2 issuance to raise funds for expansion

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

INTERNATIONAL Exchange Bank (iBank) is considering raising P1-P2 billion through a Tier 2 capital issuance by the second half of next year, bank president Ramon Sy said.

In a press conference after the bank's formal listing yesterday, Sy said the plan would form part of the bank's fund raising activity for its expansion in the next three years. The expansion is aimed at improving the iBank's standing and become one of the country's top 10 banks.

Sy also said the bank was planning to tap a combination of peso- and foreign-denominated debts.

"We want to be in the top ten in the next two to three years," Sy said.

At present, the bank operates 75 branches. It plans to open up to 150 branches through the acquisition of other bank licenses or those closed by the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. (PDIC).

With the possible increase in capital, iBank expects to boost its buffer for risky investments or capital adequacy ratio to higher than 18 percent from the present 13 to 14 percent. Its bad loans stood at P3 billion while foreclosed assets were at P2.2 billion.

At the stock market, iBank closed at its day-low of P16.25 on its first listing day. It opened at P17 a share and hit a day-high of P17.25. iBank listed 318.6 million shares yesterday. The public float consisted of 68.68 million shares or 22 percent of the outstanding capital at a price of P16.18 per share. iBank has raised P1.1 billion from its public offering.

The bank expects to earn P520 million this year, well within its target of a 20-percent growth from last year's level. The bank earned P433 million last year. In the first nine months of this year, earnings were placed at P432 million.

iBANK key officers led the bell-ringing ceremony at the Philippine Stock Exchange, marking the start of yesterday's trading and the formal listing of iBank shares. Present during the ceremony were (from left) PSE director Eddie Gobing, PSE chair Rita Arroyo, iBank president Ramon Sy, SEC Chair Fe Barin, iBank director Wilfrido Tecson, PSE president Francis Lim, iBank chair Gerardo Lanuza, BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes, iBank directors Wilson Sy and Greg Yu, ATR-Kim Eng Capital Partners president Manuel Tordesillas.

Bourse eyes 8 IPOs for '05

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange (PSE) is expecting eight companies to undertake their initial public offerings next year.

PSE president Francis Lim said the bourse was expecting the likes of Ayala-led water utility Manila Water Co. Inc., broadcast firm GMA Network Inc. and Lopez-controlled power producer First Gas Power to join its roster of member-firms by next year.

PSE chair Alicia Arroyo said there were talks with these firms but no formal application has been filed yet with the bourse.

Lim also said that a rural bank had expressed interest in listing with the PSE. The bank may qualify under the bourse's major board, or the category of companies with capital of more than P100 million.

"This year, only one major company, International Exchange Bank, did an initial public offering.

"As an exchange, it is giving us some concern since neighboring companies like Thailand have more listed firms. For next year, I think it is doable. We have to have the guts to push harder," Lim said.

He said he was pushing for the approval of certain incentives that were aimed at encouraging companies to list. Among these, he said, was the granting of a 20-percent discount on initial listing fees.

"But that is a small matter. We want to tap for listing BOI (Board of Investment)-registered companies, power companies and telecommunication companies. It's payback time for these companies," he said.

Power company Mirant Global Corp. is seriously studying undertaking an IPO, industry sources said.

While the timetable has yet to be set, Mirant is expected to come up with a decision within the year, sources added.

Elizabeth L. Sanchez

AUB sees net of ₱480M in '04

COMMERCIAL bank Asia United Bank expects a net income of P480 million this year, about the same level it posted last year.

AUB president Abraham Co said the banking sector, which this year was up against rising interest rates, would likely face tougher challenges next year.

He said it would be more prudent to be cautious on lending activities and put off any aggressive growth next year.

Co said AUB would simply aim to replicate next year the level of earnings it posted this year.

The bank had a net income of P346 million in the first 10 months of the year, 10 percent lower than the level recorded in the same period last year.

As of the 10-month period, AUB's total assets amounted to P18.5 billion, representing a 10 percent growth over the same period last year.

Doris C. Dumlao

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of December 6, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	2.95	2.95	2.9	2.9	10,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	23.5	23.75	23.25	23.75	1,250,500
Bank of the Phil. Islands	48.5	49.5	48.5	49.5	499,800
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	51	51	51	51	121,700
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.47	0.47	620,000
International Exch. Bank	17	17.25	16.25	16.25	3,302,700
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	29	29	28	28	214,700
Philippine National Bank	23	23	23	23	2,000
Phil. Savings Bank	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	14,200
Security Bank Corp.	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	100,800
Union Bank of the Phil.	22.75	22.75	22.5	22.75	38,100
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	162	200	162	190	300
Manulife Financial Corp.	2500	2505	2500	2505	150
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1820	1845	1820	1840	3,740
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	18.75	19	18.75	18.75	4,100
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.88	1.88	1.76	1.8	16,594,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	980	990	975	980	266,270
Ipeople Inc.	2.85	2.85	2.8	2.8	70,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044	500,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.034	0.035	0.033	0.034	4,400,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	50,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.36	2.36	2.3	2.3	16,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.55	2.55	2.44	2.44	5,456,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	10,000
Transpacific Broadcast	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	35,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1340	1340	1285	1285	148,350
Ivantage Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.71	31,760,000
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	500,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	16.5	16.5	16.25	16.5	97,600
Manila Electric Co. B	26.5	27	26	27	5,228,100
Petron Corp.	3.2	3.25	3.2	3.25	4,533,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	20,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.7	884,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.36	0.37	0.36	0.37	260,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.26	1.26	1.1	1.1	375,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.35	0.39	0.35	0.38	5,580,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.65	0.7	0.62	0.62	120,000
Supercity Rlty Dev. Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	5,000
Union Cement Corp.	2.1	2.1	1.98	2	4,890,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	1,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	32	32	31.5	31.5	84,200
Jollibee Foods Corp.	29	29	28.5	28.5	136,100
RFM Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	30,000
San Miguel Corp. A	56.5	57	56.5	57	186,000
San Miguel Corp. B	73.5	74.5	73.5	74.5	63,700
Vitarich Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	80,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	6.4	6.6	6.4	6.6	5,730,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.33	0.35	0.33	0.34	450,000
Abaitiz Equity Ventures	3.3	3.3	3.25	3.3	4,338,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.68	1.7	1.64	1.68	1,119,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.0075	0.0075	184,000,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	80,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	15.75	16	15.75	16	12,600
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.73	0.73	0.71	0.72	21,770,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.15	0.16	0.145	0.16	4,900,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.235	0.235	2,670,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.125	0.125	0.12	0.12	310,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.85	3.85	3.75	3.8	2,763,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	10,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	4.95	5.1	4.85	5.1	2,538,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	30.5	32	30.5	32	3,275,200
Ionics Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	180,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.3	1,547,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.52	1.54	1.48	1.52	1,270,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.016	0.016	0.015	0.016	2,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.22	1.22	1.2	1.22	4,663,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.41	0.41	0.4	0.4	30,320,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.15	0.155	0.15	0.155	2,500,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.26	0.3	0.26	0.26	320,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	17,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.13	0.15	0.13	0.15	1,320,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	1,400,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.62	1.62	1.58	1.58	153,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.64	0.64	0.59	0.6	5,440,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.93	0.93	0.89	0.89	290,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	518,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.87	4,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7	7	7	7	2,836,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	800,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.27	0.27	4,030,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.145	0.17	0.145	0.165	21,550,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.33	0.34	0.33	0.34	4,900,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.08	1.08	4,652,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	120,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.49	0.55	0.49	0.55	870,000
Primex Corp.	2.7	2.8	2.7	2.8	120,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	10,000
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.23	0.23	0.21	0.22	2,670,000
SM Development Corp.	1.5	1.52	1.42	1.42	1,379,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.4	7.5	7.4	7.5	4,219,000
Zippora Rlty Hldgs Inc.	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	200,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.44	0.44	0.4	0.42	1,260,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.35	0.44	0.35	0.44	940,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.014	329,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	4	4.1	3.85	3.85	858,000
Benguet Corp. A	1.68	2.4	1.88	2.4	261,000
Benguet Corp. B	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9	1,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.3	33,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.27	0.3	0.27	0.29	63,770,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.36	0.42	0.36	0.39	132,320,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.021	0.022	0.02	0.021	442,900,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.029	0.031	0.028	0.028	1,067,600,000
Omico Corp.	0.0055	0.006	0.005	0.005	707,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.6	0.63	0.58	0.62	14,870,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.75	0.77	0.72	0.72	17,720,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.17	0.185	0.16	0.165	3,830,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.011	11,200,000
Interport Res. B	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	2,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.005	0.005	0.0048	0.0048	167,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0055	0.0055	0.0048	0.005	225,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	200,000
Pacifica	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	10,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	100,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.25	0.27	0.245	0.27	830,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	6,178,690	132,123,350.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	368,311,920	953,921,895.00
PRO	48,356,000	66,723,190.00
Mining	2,802,363,000	146,238,460.00
OIL	416,330,000	2,664,050.00
GRAND TOTALS:	3,641,539,610	1,301,670,945.00
	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	531.47	UP 5.41
Comm'l & Ind'l	2,804.49	DOWN 33.31
PRO	662.65	DOWN 3.63
Mining	2,766.11	UP 127.50
OIL	1.88	UP 0.06
SME	100.00	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	1,154.64	UP 2.25
Composite	1,803.37	DOWN 13.62

NO. OF ADVANCES: 38; NO. OF DECLINES: 36; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 41; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 115, NO. OF TRADES: 4,923

DISCLOSURES

IONICS Inc. said its subsidiary, Ionics EMS Inc., through Ionics EMS Ltd. has undertaken the initial steps towards the establishment of a manufacturing facility in Tang Xia, Dongguan, China.

* * *

DMCI HOLDINGS Inc. announced the delisting of 50,000 preferred shares redeemed for November, effective Dec. 7. This brings the company's outstanding preferred shares to 157,340.

* * *

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has approved the amendments to Belle Corp.'s by-laws, including the inclusion of the rules governing the election of independent directors. ***Compiled by D.J. Yap, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

December 6, 2004 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.743163	1.000000	56.0970
Japan	Yen	0.007283	0.009800	0.5498
United Kingdom	Pound	1.449634	1.943900	109.0470
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.095621	0.128667	7.2178
Switzerland	Franc	0.657259	0.884408	49.6126
Canada	Dollar	0.624139	0.839842	47.1126
Singapore	Dollar	0.454756	0.611920	34.3269
Australia	Dollar	0.577214	0.776699	43.5705
Bahrain	Dinar	1.971359	2.652661	148.8063
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.198177	0.266667	14.9592
Brunei	Dollar	0.453370	0.610054	34.2222
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000082	0.000111	0.0062
Thailand	Baht	0.019017	0.025589	1.4355
UAE	Dirham	0.202348	0.272279	15.2740
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.345600	75.4841
Argentina	Peso	0.249886	0.336247	18.8624
Brazil	Real	0.276166	0.371609	20.8462
Denmark	Kroner	0.134636	0.181166	10.1629
India	Rupee	0.016875	0.022707	1.2738
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.195595	0.263193	14.7643
Mexico	New Peso	0.066997	0.090151	5.0572
New Zealand	Dollar	0.533575	0.717978	40.2764
Norway	Kroner	0.122723	0.165136	9.2636
Pakistan	Rupee	0.012496	0.016815	0.9433
South Africa	Rand	0.128482	0.172885	9.6983
Korea	Won	0.000710	0.000956	0.0536
Sweden	Kroner	0.112508	0.151391	8.4926
Syria	Pound	0.014342	0.019298	1.0826
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023094	0.031075	1.7432

Supreme Court makes up its mind

GETTING mugged while carrying a cell phone is such a normal event these days that you almost expect it to happen, but the crime situation has worsened. With the price of gold at a 16-year high, people are now getting mugged for their gold teeth. In Makati, two men attacked a man coming out of a dental clinic. One hit him on the head, dazing him while the other opened his mouth, and with a pair of pliers, yanked out 4 gold teeth. The attack took place around tooth hurty.

In Mabini, a man carrying a refilled cylinder of LPG, now up P40 to P420 per cylinder, was leaving the garage when a big man grabbed the cylinder and effortlessly ran off with it. The police are looking for an Olympic weightlifter. And in a well-known bowling alley, dozens of bowling balls have disappeared right under people's noses. Please call the police if you see a 3-fingered pickpocket.

The government is trying to pretend that inflation is 8 percent a year, but I think it is a monthly. Owing to the unprecedented strength of the euro, Swiss chocolate has become so expensive that they are now selling it one square at a time. Even SMARTIES are being sold singly at P1 a piece. As for seedless grapes, they are being auctioned of at P3 per grape. No wonder I seedless people buying them.

In Chow King, 4 pieces of siopao used to cost P27; now it is P30 for 3 pieces. So the cost per piece has risen from P6.75 to P10, an increase of 33 percent. That should be good for Jollibee's profit margin but not so good for the diners. KIDDIEPAC mineral water is up from P38 to P49 this year, an increase of 30 percent.

Even my can if HAKONE sardines jumped overnight from P19 to P26, up almost 40 percent. When I complained to the manager, he said, "Well, they are in oil and you know what has happened to oil prices." I replied, "They are in vegetable oil, not diesel. At least, I hope not."

The government calculations are based on Filipinos eating boiled rice, drinking tap water and walking to work, assuming they have a job. For anyone living in Manila, these figures are purely fictitious.

* * *

Last week was a short one, what with Monday being declared a holiday instead of Tuesday; then the stock market closed on Friday for absolutely no reason. There wasn't a drop of rain or a breath of wind. Whoever decided to close the banks and the PSE should be demoted to traffic duty.

The most important event was the Supreme Court reversing its decision on the 1995 Mining Act. Two weeks earlier, I watched Jose de Venecia for an hour and he assured viewers that he would get 3 to 4 bills passed before the Senate recesses on Dec. 17. He also said that he was talking individually with every judge trying to convince them to change course for the good of the country. Well, he succeeded and they voted by 10 to 4 with one abstention, thereby reversing their decision. Congratulations to all concerned.

This is the best news that the Philippines has had for a very long time. It means that countries, like Australia and Canada, can now bring in billions of dollars plus equipment and technology to reopen our dormant or loss-making mines. According to De Venecia there is $1 trillion worth of gold waiting to be dug up and sold. Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri puts the figure at $840 billion but that is still 15 times our foreign debt. Apart from creating more than 20,000 new jobs, it will bring prosperity back to a country that sorely needs it. The inflow of capital could be $6 to $7 billion.

No wonder that there was a boom in mining stocks. Foreigners can only buy the "B" shares but Filipinos can buy the cheaper ordinary shares. For sure, there is going to be a sustained rise in gold stocks. But which ones will they buy? The primary factor is liquidity. US and European investment houses will not buy unless they can deal in reasonable amounts.

PXB only had 150,000 shares available at the close on Thursday, which at 74 centavos is only P100,000. LCB had P1 million worth on offer, but MAB had 300 million shares at .027, a total of P8.1 million, so I think that is the one they will go for. There was also 300 million MA at .021, a total of P6.3 million. Altogether, MAB traded 2.3 billion shares and MA 2.2 billion shares. So if you want to speculate, I suggest MA at .021 but they will all move together.

The government has to give tax breaks to companies if they want them to invest, and one requirement is to allow them to take out tax-free their original capital investment. This is only fair and thereafter, they will pay corporation tax on their profits. Unfortunately, this means that the government will not collect any revenue for some years and our financial situation is critical.

So, I suggest that as soon as gold is produced and sold by the central bank, they should receive a commission of 2 percent. This concession will only make a marginal difference to the foreign investors who will still be credited with the commission deducted. With the price of gold at its highest level since 1988, they should reap big rewards and the country will get a substantial amount, possibly as early as 2005.

This amount, plus the sale of the MASINLOC power station for $562 million, plus the 98 centavos/kWh added to our electricity bills to halve the Napocor liability, plus a few revenue-raising bills before the Christmas recess, should be enough to persuade all 3 agencies not to downgrade us.

At last, we are moving in the right direction and our exports are up 12.3 percent, year on year. We deserve a break and I am hopeful that we will be given at least another 6 months.

During this period, the government will probably add another 98 centavos/kWh, which will not please end-users but will eliminate Napocor's huge losses so that it can be privatized. That will be a huge millstone lifted from the government. We might even get an upgrade.

In the U.S., the number of new jobs created was only 112,000 instead of the 200,000 expected, so the dollar hit another new low against the euro. Even so, the economy is growing at 3.9 percent, which is reasonable, and Chair Greenspan said, "the soft patch is behind us." This indicates a pick-up in the economy next year, and the near-certainty of another rate increase this month and more next year.

Readers who cut their loss on UCC and switched to FH are now making a profit, which will increase as time goes on. I always follow my second commandment. As soon as I am down 3 fluctuations, I am out. It pays to cut losses quickly and to run profits. Read Market Wizards by Jack Schwager.

I found my wife lying on the floor having difficulty breathing. I thought she was having a heart attack but it was only the adjusted Meralco bill.

FOOTNOTE- my foot is a little better.

mrbearbull@hotmail.com

MR. BEARBULL

Ron Nathan

Bayantel says rehab delay won't affect finances

By Clarissa S. Batino

BAYAN Telecommunications Inc., the phone company of the Lopez group, yesterday assured that snags in its debt-restructuring program would not affect its recovery and near-term prospects.

"We recognize the right of our creditors to question certain terms of the Regional Trial Court's ruling on BayanTel's rehabilitation plan and we really hope for a speedy resolution of the matter by the Court of Appeals so we can move forward and focus on sustaining the momentum of our business," Bayantel chief finance officer Salvador Tirona said in a statement.

Avenue Asia Capital Group, a major holder of Bayantel's $200 million in bonds, had asked the appellate court to fix the Lopez firm's debt at $471 million payable over 12 years instead of the $325 million payable over 19 years as approved by the Pasig court.

Bayantel creditors claimed the Pasig court based its June ruling on a proposal of the Lopez firm itself, believing it was "in the best position to ascertain the level of sustainable debt in light of its knowledge of its own actual operations, and that maintaining an unrealistic level of debt will defeat, rather than promote and achieve, the very purpose" of rehabilitation.

Avenue Asia alleged that BayanTel management "deliberately manipulated projections in an attempt to artificially reduce the amount of sustainable debt it can service."

Tirona said the Pasig court had approved in June a debt-restructuring plan that set out the payment of $325 million in debts within 19 years and the remaining "unsustainable" obligations be converted into equity to a maximum of 40 percent by the end of the 19th year.

Debts classified as "sustainable" would carry an annual interest of 3 percent for dollar-denominated and 6 percent for local obligations.

Avenue Asia said Bayantel's submissions were based "on out-of-date financial information and flawed assumptions, thus the amount of sustainable debt provided could not be relied upon.

It added that based on the phone firm's March 2003 projections, Bayantel could raise enough money to pay for at least $471 million in debts over 15 to 20 years.

Avenue Asia also questioned the court's decision to write off more than $34 million in penalties and interests. It claimed it could also own more than 70 percent of the company despite the 40-percent limit set by the Constitution.

Tirona stressed the viability of Bayantel's business and its capability to pay off its debts was not in question.

He said the company had settled P134 million in interest payments in September and was prepared to comply with the quarterly payments by the end of the month.

He said the company would use internally generated funds for the payment.

"We remain committed to adopt a rehabilitation plan that allows us to achieve sustainable growth and profitability while continuing to provide excellent service to all our customers," Tirona said.

Tirona said creditors should stop complaining because what mattered most was that Bayantel was starting to pay interest on its outstanding debt.

The Lopez-owned phone company stopped making interest payments to its creditors in 2001 due to mounting losses.

As of the third quarter, Bayantel sales reached P4.02 billion and was on track with its P5.4-billion revenue target. Next year, officials said revenue should grow by about 10 percent to hit P6 billion.

Chic Uniform, Inc.
WE DO ALL KINDS OF UNIFORMS FOR
OFFICES • SCHOOLS • FACTORIES • HOSPITALS
SECURITY GUARDS • NURSES • HOUSEKEEPERS
READY MADE SCRUB SUIT
Unit 27-Q Burgundy Corporate Tower 252 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City
8437633 • 8437539 • 8437637

PSBank
U$Dollar
TIME DEPOSIT
Earn as high as 3.5%

	$1,000 to 9,999	$10,000 to 49,999	$50,000 to 99,999	$100,000 to 1.0 million
1 month	2.500%	2.750%	3.000%	3.000%
2 months	2.750%	3.000%	3.250%	3.250%
3 months	3.000%	3.250%	3.500%	3.500%
6 months	3.250%	3.250%	3.500%	3.500%
12 months	3.250%	3.500%	3.500%	3.500%

Quoted rates are for individual accounts only and are subject to change without prior notice. Rates are on per annum basis and subject to 7.5% withholding tax.
Visit any of our 121 PSBank Branches nationwide.
Member of the PDIC. Maximum Deposit Insurance for each Depositor P250,000.00

shareXCHANGE
SELLERS
ALABANG "B".....Call now
MLA GOLF (INDIV).....11.5M
MLA POLO.....2.3M
BUYERS
BAGUIO CC.....Call now
CC AT TAGAYTAY.....360K
MT. MALARAYAT "C".....250K
TERE TABUENA, LYRA, FRANCO DEL ROSARIO
809-8233 | 809-8263 | 850-5870-71 | 0918-9043308
email: clubshare@pldt.com.ph | Fax: 809-8074

COME TO THE MAX!
AIM
ALUMNI
Leadership. Live It.
1st Merry AIM X"mas (MAX) Fair!
*Merry MAX to you!
08-09 December 2004 (Wed & Thurs) | 10am - 8pm
AIM Zen Garden, Asian Institute of Management
123 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
★ MAXimum discounts on Asian finds, ethnic treasures and great gifts!
★ MAXimum food choices featuring delicious regional delicacies!
★ MAXimum fun w/ friends & family listening to live X'mas Carols performed by the Don Bosco Youth Center
★ MAXimum rewards w/ a trip for 2 to Hong Kong & other surprises
★ Alumni Thanksgiving Mass @ Zen Garden, 6:30 pm on Dec. 8, 2004
WITH MANY THANKS TO:
SMART GOLD Simply The Gold Life
PETRON
HSBC The world's local bank
Nestlé FoodServices
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
EQUIS ACCREDITED

Gov't ...

From page B1

after the auction.

But for the 182- and 364-day debt paper, banks were not as interested as they were for the 91-day treasuries. However, Mendiola said the rate for the two maturities were still better than expected.

The six-month government securities fetched a rate of 8.877 percent, or 4.1 basis points higher than the 8.836 percent recorded in the previous auction two weeks ago.

But while banks sought for a higher risk premium, they still showed a relatively strong appetite for the 182-day bills as tenders stood at 3.76 billion, or P26 million more than the P3.5-billion offering.

The rate for the one-year debt paper also stood higher at 9.884 percent compared with the previous 9.725 percent.

QUALITY COPIERS
Canon
Christmas Extravaganza!
Free! iC Watch S Haversack Bag
Free! 1 piece iC Jacket
Free! iC Watch S iC Jacket
IC-MF5650 4-in-1 • Printer • Copier • Scanner • Fax 18 cpm P34,950
IR-1210 • Digital Copier & Printer 12 cpm P46,500 Can be hooked-up to a computer
NP 7120 • Compact Analog Copier 12 cpm P39,500
IC-MF5630 3-in-1 • Printer • Copier • Scanner 18 cpm P28,950
NEW FAX 8822 P9,500
AUTHORIZED DEALERS
www.elitemachinesinc.com
Elite
EURO-ASIA
GOLDSTAR
GrF. LRDC Building, 22 San Gil Puyat Ave. Makati City
Tel. Nos. 8877238 / 56 / 68 / 80 / 95 / 96 & 8880698

BM

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

People, Events & Products

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2004

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Aries Espinosa**

Berkley, Family First celebrate 7th anniversary

MARKING its 7th year in the industry, pre-need top player Berkley International Plans Inc (BIP) and its distributor, Family First Inc (FFI), adopt a new and dynamic customer - battlecry that encapsulates the Berkley Group's reason for being - "Because your family comes first!"

The multinational company, majority-owned by a US Fortune 500 property and casualty insurance firm (WR Berkley Corp), prides itself for having brought the pre-need product closer to the Filipinos' reach through its pioneering and innovative selling strategy. Now a fixture of the local shopping scene in some of the biggest SM malls in Metro Manila, the promo and sales officers of Berkley and Family First have done much to put the once virtually unknown financial services provider in the map of who's who in the pre-need industry.

More than the feat of consistently being ranked among the Top 5 in terms of new sales since their 2nd year of operation, Berkley and Family First have paved the way for a better understanding by the Filipino layman of the benefits and intricacies of saving for his future. The sister companies are able to invite an average of close to seven thousand (7,000) walk-in clients monthly. These people have absolutely no obligation to buy anything but get a free lecture on the ins and outs of various savings products on top of getting a guaranteed gift. In just 7 years, Berkley and Family First have presented to a total of over half a million walk-in clients.

Berkley's new president, Alan Michael Rafe, stressed that operations will forge head-on now that the company is entering its 8th year in the Philippines despite what some sectors predict will be a sluggish economy. "This is a testament to our mother company's faith in the strength of the Filipinos. We are optimistic that Filipinos will prevail, as they always have, over the financial challenges now facing them," Rafe said, noting the greater need for savings at this time more than any other.

Rafe added that their new slogan, coined by an employee - Ronnie Sy - won in an internally conducted organization-wide contest in search of a motto to guide and inspire employees as they endeavor to secure the future of more and more Filipino families. "We are very optimistic about our 8th year. We shall continue to improve our products and services as our gesture of gratitude to the Filipino people for their overwhelming trust."

Berkley's climb from the tailend of the industry at no. 87 in 1997 to a perennial Top 5 placer in the industry is an unprecedented record that egged on other establishments to follow their lead of bringing people en masse to the product instead of the other way around.

PLDT, INTEL INK MOA

PLDT and Intel Microelectronics Phils Inc recently signed a Memorandum of Agreement forging a much stronger partnership in the promotion of Intel's Centrino notebook and PLDT BizDSL through a nationwide marketing program. Shown in photo are (from left): Napoleon Nazareno, PLDT president and CEO; Manuel V. Pangilinan, PLDT chair; John Davies, Intel World Wide VP - solutions and market development group; and Ricardo Banaag, Intel Microelectronics Phils Inc country manager.

GIGGLES BABY DIAPERS AND BABY WIPES WINS 2004 CONSUMER CHOICE AWARD

Giggles Baby Diapers and Baby Wipes bagged the 'Most Outstanding Baby Diaper Brand and Most Outstanding Baby Wipes Brand' awards respectively in 2004 Consumers' Choice and Dangal ng Pilipinas Annual Awards held recently at the Irwin Theater, Ateneo de Manila University. Organized by Consumer League of the Philippines (Conphil) Foundation Inc, the award recognizes excellence in product quality and consumer services. Giggles Baby Diapers and Baby Wipes are high quality products at very affordable prices. They are available at SM, Watson's, SM Baby Company, Robinson's, Big R, Landmark, Puregold, Isetann, Ever, Cash & Carry and other leading supermarkets and department stores nationwide. Exclusively distributed by Gentro Phils Inc. Photo shows Senator Ma. Ana 'Jamby' Madrigal presenting the awards while Harry Ko president of Gentro Phils Inc, Lily Ko, vice president and Wilson Ang, sales manager proudly receive the awards.

Brazilian Jiu Jitsu now in the Philippines

BRAZILIAN Jiujitsu (BJJ) is now making its way into our country as one of the latest and hottest sport. Known internationally for its fast-paced action and impressive reality based ground-fighting and grappling techniques, it has caught the attention of thousands of spectators and curious onlookers world-wide as well as our very own people.

In the past, Filipinos could only appreciate the skills of Brazilian Jiujitsu practitioners in action through video recordings of demonstrations and tournaments. Now, the action comes right in our own backyard. Through the selfless efforts of coach Stephen Kamphuis of the Kamphuis-Machado Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Club together with the kind cooperation of the UST Judo Varsity and South East Asia Grapplers' Association (Seaga), the 1st Philippine Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Friendly Open will be held at the UST Gymnasium on December 11, 2004 from 8a.m. to 7 p.m.

Coach Stephen Kamphuis originally from New Zealand and a former resident of Australia is a successful Judo player himself w/ the rank of Black Belt 2nd Dan and Black Belt in Brazilian Jiu Jitsu as well. He also had 3.5 years of training in Boxing. At the moment he is one of only two persons in Australia that holds the rank of Black Belt in BJJ and Judo as well as being the only one in the Philippines at the moment.

Aside from winning in Judo (11 years) and most of the BJJ/ Grapling Tournament in Australia for the past 7.5 years, he has also won Golds in three International BJJ competitions for the year 2003 and 2004 namely the 2004 Pan American BJJ Tournament (Seniors' Division) in Cal, USA; 2004 Asia Pacific Rim in Taiwan and the 2003 and 2004 World Masters and Seniors International in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

With these achievements, Stephen Kamphuis has always wanted to impart and share his knowledge of the BJJ Technique/Skills to practitioners who wish to learn. So having opted to stay in the Philippines for good, he opened up a small school called Kamphuis-Machado BJJ Philippines Club located at Wack Wack, Mandaluyong. teaching BJJ classes and Self Defence classes for Adults and Kids. It is also great for anyone who commonly lead such an inactive life and who want to train at their own pace which is much more exciting than just working out in a gym. The training environment is geared to safety, learning and enjoyment.

It has always been his goal to establish a strong team of players under the Machado school and establish a competition circuit for them to compete in. He sees that there are some talented athletes in the Philippines but lack venues and events to showcase their skills. In time he would want to see them compete with other countries in the South East Asia region and make Philippines, with its strong martial Arts culture, famous in Brazilian Jiu Jitsu in South East Asia.

BITS Clips

SJI Grand Homecoming

ON DEC. 26, all roads will lead to St. John's Institute for "D Ultim8 Party Myx", the Grand Alumni Homecoming hosted by HS Class '79. There will be raffle draw with a grand prize of P1 million. Tickets are available at St. John's Institute, Shantung Commercial, JM Glass, TPY Lending Investors, New Hope Commercial and AX Currency Exchange. Registration starts at 6:30 p.m. followed by Cocktails-Dinner at 7:30 p.m. Alumni are encouraged to come in Retro attire, with the best male and female guests receiving surprise gifts. A Thanksgiving Mass will be celebrated on Thursday, Dec. 23 at the Queen of Peace Church, followed by a motorcade.

Free perfume-making, aromatherapy seminars

CREATE perfumes for Christmas gifts to friends and relatives or sell them for easy profits this season. Join the free Perfume-Making and Aromatherapy seminars of Chemworld Fragrance Institute. Schedules are: (Tuesdays and Fridays, 1 to 5 p.m.) - Dec. 3, 7, 10, 14, 17 and 21; (Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.) - Dec. 4, 11 and 18. A minimal fee of only P150/participant will be charged to cover cost of materials to be used in the hands-on compounding. All finished products can be taken home. The workshop/seminars will be held at the Training Room of the Chemworld/Godiva office, 5th Floor Oppen Building, 349 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City. For more information, contact Chemworld at (632)890-9845; Fax: 896-7945; CP: 0917-8736547 or 0917-8736548.

Employee benefit seminar

THE UP School of Labor and Industrial Relations in cooperation with Cleared Inc will conduct a seminar workshop entitled "Managing Employee Benefits" on Dec. 7 to 8 at the Bonifacio Hall, Up Diliman, Quezon City. It aims to equip participants with the necessary competencies to successfully manage the employee benefits function at the firm level. For details, call UP Solair through Fina/Mayet/Zeny at 920-7717.

'Rice in the Seven Arts'

THE ASIA Rice Foundation and the National Museum of the Philippines will launch the book "Rice in the Seven Arts" at the Gallery of the Rice Exhibit, Museum of the Filipino People, National Museum of the Philippines, P. Burgos St., Manila on Dec. 10 at 2 p.m. For more information please call Charo Medalla (049) 536-2285 (Los Baños) email: aslarice@laguna.net; Bajji Alvarez 527-1215; Mel Lagartija 527-0278 (Manila)

Araullo HS' 71 X-mas party

CALLING all Araullo High School Batch '71. There will be a Christmas Party to be held at Club Intramuros on Dec. 11, 6 p.m. For details, contact the following: Nora Medina-Santiago (521-1706); Lilibeth Neyra-Tiu (890-2564); Bess Camacho-de Guzman (632-6031); Lynette Bernardo-Monillar (400-7261).

BESTERM JOINS 3RD INTERNATIONAL BAKERY FAIR

Besterm International (products - bakery refrigeration and service equipment) recently signed in with the Filipino Chinese Bakery Association Inc (FCBAI) for the forthcoming 3rd International Bakery Fair slated on Feb. 18 to 20, 2005 at World Trade Center. Shown are (from left): FCBAI vice president Leonardo Ong; FCBAI treasurer Benito Ong; Edwin Alcasid of Besterm International; FCBAI director and Bakery Fair 2005 committee Henry Ah; and FCBAI corporate secretary Marcos Ong Jr.

UNILAB SUPPORTS DOH'S ANTI-TB DRIVE

United Laboratories Inc (Unilab), through its respiratory healthcare division Medichem, recently turned over the first tranche of the P5 million worth of anti-TB drugs that it pledged in support of the government's anti-TB drive. These medicines include Rifampicin (Medifam), Isoniazid (Odinah), and Pyrazinamihde (Pyzamed). Shown in photo are (from left) vice president for corporate affairs Rhais Gamboa; DOH Director III Dr. Jaime Y. Lagahit; Medichem product officer Marie Bala; DOH Usec. Antonio S. Lopez; Medichem marketing director Don Cabigao and Medichem technical writer Virginia Baco.

Support WWF Philippines through text

INNOVATION leader Globe Telecom is doing its share to help save endangered species, their habitats and the people who depend on these resources through a new service that allows Globe Plan, Prepaid and Touch Mobile subscribers to donate to the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)-Philippines via text.

WWF-Philippines is part of the global conservation organization that is dedicated to saving life on Earth through the conservation of biological diversity, thus ensuring a livable future for all living beings. WWF believes that humans can live in harmony with nature through positive actions.

Globe Plan, Prepaid and Touch Mobile subscribers can now help save endangered animal species simply by donating prepaid load credits via text. The prepaid load credits will be converted to cash and donated to WWF-Philippines to support its work in 27 sites nationwide.

Subscribers can donate in denominations of P5, P25, P50, and P100. For Prepaid subscribers, donation will have a daily cap of P300 which will be debited from the load balance, while G-Plan or G-Flex subscribers will have a monthly cap of P250 charged on top of the monthly bill. To send load credit donations, text the amount to be donated to 2899WWF or 289-9993. For example: to send P50 load, text 50 and send to 289-9993.

This upholds Globe Telecom's commitment to introduce relevant services that have life-enhancing benefits. With this service, Globe makes it easier, and more convenient for people to support worthy environmental advocacies. Do your share for the environment by texting your donations now!

VP Noli launches scholarship program for OFWs

IN THE presence of Vice President Noli "Kabayan" De Castro, the AMA Foundation Inc, and the Kabayan Noli De Castro Foundation Inc established the AMA-Kabayan Scholarship Program which involves a P100 million worth of scholarship grants for Overseas Filipino Workers or their dependents.

A Memorandum of Agreement was signed, recently between the AMA Foundation, represented by its president, Amable C. Aguiluz IX and Kabayan Noli De Castro Foundation, as represented by lawyer Jesse H.T. Andres.

The tie-up sought to help educate poor but deserving individuals who want to pursue post secondary education. The agreement ensures that any OFW receives a 10 percent to 20 percent discount from any AMA branch across the country.

Moreover, the AMA-Kabayan Scholarship Program sets aside 60 full scholarship grants to any OFW or their dependents in any of the following courses: such as information technology, engineering, business administration, nursing, caregiver and other short courses.

Also present at the signing were Special Envoy to the Gulf Cooperation Council and chair eEmeritus for AMA Education System Amable R. Aguiluz, AMA Trustee Ma. Angela C. Aguiluz and OWWA Administrator Marianito Roque.

Qualified beneficiaries under the agreement may enroll at the AMA Computer University, ACLC Computer Learning Center, ABE International College, AMA School of Nursing, St. Augustine School of Nursing and St. Augustine International School (Basic-Ed).

ERASE YOUR LOAN PROMO WINNER

BPI Family Savings Bank awards P25,000 prize to Mary Ann Gonzaga of WAJ Realty Development Inc., for referring her client, who was one of the winners in the Erase-Your-Housing-Loan promo. BPI FSB president Alfonso L. Salcedo, Jr. (from left) congratulates her along with the bank's AVP and head of Broker Developer Channel, Housing Loans Department Anthony Ruel L. Magtoto; and VP and head of Housing Loans Alberto E. Pascual. The Erase-Your-Housing-Loan promo gives the winners the chance to write-off huge amounts from their outstanding loan balance. It is open to all BPI Family Savings Bank clients who avail of the Happy Family Housing Loan during the promo period. If the winning account is broker-referred, its agent receives a bonus prize representing 10 percent of the promo prize amount. All non-winning housing loan accounts are still qualified in the Grand Draw, which is set on Dec. 23 with P1M prize at stake.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 897-8425 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 8978425
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 522-4406 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The Widest Reaching Classifieds

RATES
P245 per column centimeter
P75 per line
(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

DEADLINES
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Mondays to Saturdays 12:00 noon Day before publication
Sundays 12:00 noon every Thursday

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

MEDICAL

PHYSICIAN/SURGEON

RAPID Tx VD-STD
Ex. SWEAT PIMPLES KELOID
ALLERGY WARTS SKIN PEEL
15 Annapolis Greenhills
Call 7276124 - 25 9am-7pm

VDSTD Skin Clinic Rapid
Tx Comp Lab Tel. 8175071
Matrinco 2178 P. Tamo Makati

GARMA CLINIC
VD SPECIALIST
GONORRHEA, WARTS SYPHILIS, HERPES, AIDS
ADULT CIRCUMCISION
VAGINAL REPAIR
SKIN DISEASES
COMPLETE LABORATORY
No. 8 Purdue St., Cubao, Q. C. back of Stella Maris College
OPEN 8 AM to 6 PM MON. to SAT.
Tel. 4392706 / 9139474

PERSONAL

MASSAGE

Body Massage, Facial, Foot Spa 534-4003 • 0919-3220871

02-3233269 Best Boys

AKHIN THAI MASGE - BAGUIO CEBU DAVAO MANILA #8347357

ASK JOHN MALE MASSEURS (0921)5364794

H'SOME ATHLETES 8327363

MASSAGE 8545348 WARREN

MR. NICE 09173249921

★ Mr BODY PHYSIQUE ★ 11A Kamias QC 4350978

MSGE 09203448575 ANJO

THAI Msge Lic 0921-7569278

REFLEXOLOGY

BODYLAX
131 Roosevelt Ave 4144488

★FEELS GOOD 4127758★

I-spa Citland 9 Mkt 8160151

•Wizard Massage 4213197•

HOUSEHOLD

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

A'A MAIDS & YAYA 4386920

ANGEL MAIDS 4213253

HI PAY MAID, YAYA 732-67-50

Good Maid Yaya Boy 7502197

Good Maids Yaya Boy 7572089

Help Agency 532-1947 • 532-8503

NEED MAIDS 0915-5544777

BEST MAIDS 8250754

SAVIOUR MAIDS 4376246

Yaya H'Maid Cook 8957507

LIPAT BAHAY

•731-6833•LIPAT

L-BAHAY 9206784 4540520

•CHEAP LBAHAY 9260424•

P1200/TRIP 742-14-57

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

MANILA

MALATE MANILA
BnewTwnhse/4stry/3br/3tb/ 1-2grge/dock P3.410M up 8903461

SAMPALOC 161LA 6830677

SAN ANDRES MANILA
Bnew Twnhse/3stry/3br/3tb/grge P3.355M up 8903461 loc 34

QUEZON CITY

#131 K-3rd Kamuning
B-new 5BR 5TB 2CAR G.
9210255 / 9220539 / 9219957

West Triangle 21T/m² 6830677

LOT

MANDALUYONG

Lot Edsa 400m² 645-3731

MUNTINLUPA

AYALA ALABANG MANGO DRIVE
Vacant Adjacent Golf Course
Direct Buyers Only
Tels: 818-2781 / 751-5472

QUEZON CITY

LOYOLA GRAND VILLAS
choice lots w/ view, Sweden & Finland St avble 426-5650, 929-1632 • 0919-8212235

HOUSE & LOT

MANDALUYONG

Sacrifice Sale - FATIMA
5322115 0917-8255123

PASIG

Kapitolyo 494m² P18M 5344003

15 min to MEGAMALL Greenhills 3BR 3TB 2CG Bnew units P3.3M only 10%DP to move-in Clubhouse, Pool, Gate & Fence Pls. call Lyn 0920-9616299

RIZAL

OPEN HOUSE
DEC. 18
LOREMAR HOMES
ANTIPOLO CITY
Affordable Lots P275th
Duplex P680th Single P1M
Develop Overlooking Mla
Country Stateland
634-0369/637-3082

BULACAN

GROTTO AREA 225T 9390299

Near Grotto 650T 9390299

LAGUNA

BINAN RFO 400T 5201792

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

1.1M C5 Nr The Fort
10T/mo. or 4Yrs No Int. or 10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD 2-4BR 15min Fr Mkti 0917-8313226

•FORT BONIFACIO CONDOS 1,2,3br EasyTerms 4224906

MAKATI CONDO
1,2,3BR Ready to Move-In
Dan 4108395 / 09198504468

•MAKATI GREENBELT CONDO 3br P16M up 10%dp 4224906

Rent to Own Nr D'Fort & Mkt CBD 30K DP Move-In Studio 11K/mo. 0917-9384927

RENT2OWN 9T/mo.
Condo nr. Mkti 0922-8086855

MANILA

SN ANDRES MANILA Bnew Twnhse/3stry/3br/3tb/grge P3.355M up 8903461 loc 34

MANDALUYONG

CITYLAND SHAW 1BR FRONT SHANG P2.1M 09175213838

PASIG

1.6M ORTIGAS AVE.
RESORT-TYPE, 1st Class
2-4BR P13T/ mo. or NoDP or 0% Bess • 0917-5234223

QUEZON CITY

5th Ave Cubao 6M 3BR carport
9411759 / 09155407299

ALPHA VICTORIA NEW MLA LA116 FA236 8M 6341212

Proj.4 BNEW 3BR2TB 6830677

•QC Condo nr SM City P1.1M 2br P335T d/p 9126833

SAN JUAN

•Greenhills Condo P5.5M 3br 20% dp Bal 10yrs 9126833

LOT

MANDALUYONG

Lot Edsa 400m² 645-3731

MUNTINLUPA

AYALA ALABANG MANGO DRIVE
Vacant Adjacent Golf Course
Direct Buyers Only
Tels: 818-2781 / 751-5472

QUEZON CITY

LOYOLA GRAND VILLAS
choice lots w/ view, Sweden & Finland St avble 426-5650, 929-1632 • 0919-8212235

LOT

RIZAL

VIII East 204sqm 3450/m² Neg Nice Call 645-3731

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

SAN JUAN

Ghills FF Stu P11T 929-9835

APARTMENT

MANILA

1BR Nr P. GIL 5634007 • 5891978

PASAY

2BR Cuenca 8315026/5500254

QUEZON CITY

Commi acceptable business internet cafe, comptr cntr, gen merchndse / Res apts bldg studio type accessible 2 all pts commi area standard size affordable 9254841 ; 4356336

WAREHOUSE/ FACTORY

Near Buendia, Makati Warehouse
Concrete Warehouse with Office Space. 600 Sqm. Floor Area. P85.00/ Sqm / Month Tel. 823-9054/ 57
Ms. Corazon Cordova

ROOM & BOARD

Chin Gen Area 711-8679

P200! Sucat, Pque 8275345

Rm w/ prkng klt/tb fac nr UP QC Hall Claret Call Len/Lydia Tel. 9218084 to 85

BEDSPACE

Male 1.5 Pasay 8315026

Mkti nr Ayala P1T Ldy 7257342

WANTED TO BUY

DEFECT TV/COMPO 7325865

BUSINESS RENTAL

AYALA AVE 8181696/7566

RESORT LEASE/ RENT

Pansol Hot Spring priv 7767507

LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% W/O TAKING CAR 3577523/24

BUSINES DOCTOR 524-3197

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

MALATE MLA 526-8048/49

OTHER REAL ESTATE

REALTORS/SEMINAR

BROKERS CEP 4382966

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

TOYOTA

Rush Sale! 93 Tyta GLi 09192197301

OTHER CAR BRANDS

Pajero Land Cruiser Surf Terrano Safari Rvr Sorena Dolica Space Goor Estima Vanotto Largo Elf Canter T-in 9120847 / 09178342020

PARTS & ACCESSORIES

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

Vans / Coaster 5344003 6313495

CarsVans CoasterBus 422-9295

Cheap Van Rental 9330311

MB 7415897•09208328657

P800/L3 9136710 / 4333682

Toyco U Drive w/ Driver All Kinds Cars Van Revo Dly. Wk.Mo. Rental 8023021-22

ABC RENT A CAR
HI-ACE • STAREX L300 • CRV • REVO
HONDA • VIOS • ALTIS • LYNX • CRLA
MLA : 536-8822 • 393-9789
Q.C.: 426-2278 • 426-4084

CAR LOAN

1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523/24

1.5% CAR LOAN 534-4441

1.5% CARLOAN 373-6519

1.5% CARLOAN 788-0361

1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48

1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6560140

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202•

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/o Taking Car 5315577

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/out taking car 6567685

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

APPLIANCES

Chicken Broaster 8689130

BUY/SELL

College Plans 0917-7939832

PETS

Dog Trainer 0919-2050952

Ostrich for sale chicks adult Cel. No. (0918)293-2807

• ROTT PUPS 0919-2758677

WANTED TO BUY

'PROFESSIONAL & CREDIBLE' LOW 5% INTEREST
BUY • SELL • PAWN
SWISS WATCHES
AGENCIA de MAKATI-4587017
SECONDO AYALA CENTER-6940282
OPEN MONDAY TO SATURDAY

PARTS & ACCESSORIES

WANTED TO BUY

A NAME YOU CAN TRUST!
MANILA WATCH EXCHANGE
BUY • SELL • PAWN
ROLEX+OTHERS
& Other Swiss Watches
DIAMONDS / JEWELRY
Hi-Appraisal/Fast Cash
Repair/Polish Any Watch
T#804-0484 • 834-2886

WE BUY AT HIGH PRICE
ROLEX
5646593 5897041
5633742 0917-8473744

BUYING ROLEX
Other WATCHES, BEST PRICE
0917-8142309 • 7269687
7220433 • 4123543

MISCELLANEOUS

Restaurant Catering sale Shawarma Letsonan manok food-warmer low hipressure griller chefs table hood ice crusher bonesaw sink fryer steamer griddle Tel. 9981170

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late AURORA C. CABAEL has been extrajudicially settled among the heirs under Doc. 86, Page 18, Book XI, Series of 2004 in the Notarial Registry of Atty. Delia C. Vivar-Dimaandal, Q.C.
(PDI- Nov. 23, 30 & Dec. 7, 2004)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

EARN BIG.HIGH ROI
W/SMALL CAPITAL 882-0825
0920-8660785 VIOLY

earnextranow.com code: atb2004
8531008 09178901851

Frm Asia to North America, excluding US Canada China & India L88 is positioned to help you develop & expand a global biz. Log-on www.L88edc.com

RETIRE 2YRS 09189051567

RTW Consign 09167940002

BUSINESS FOR SALE

Security Agency / Dermclinic 534-4003 • 631-3496

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

FEMALE

Therapist, Midwife, for Massage & Facial Jobs Call 534-4003

Expd Domestic Helper for Fil. family very reliable & efficient T8436715

Receptionist-Model 19-22Yrs Old Single 5'6 Above Col. Level Min 1T/day 717-0925

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

BSP•BSN•PT•MT
Any Allied Health Grads up to P45T/ Mol 8922818

Expert English Teachers 8000024, Native Speaker

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

Llc. Masseur/se • 910-5410

Marketing / Admin / Office Sec / Editor, Graduateemail:clancher @ e a r t h l i n k . n e t

---

UNDP

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Contracting of a Manufacturer / Supplier to Supply 60 units Multi-Purpose Boats *under the Project "Support Programme for the Management and Conservation of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (Project ID 00014503)"*

The Development Support Services Center (DSSC) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) would like to invite local and international shipbuilders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the procurement of sixty (60) units multi-purpose boats for the "Support Programme for the Management and Conservation of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (Project ID 00014503)".

The project aims to provide immediate and continuing assistance to the Philippine Government on sustainable coastal and marine resources management, particularly to achieve a more effective system of environmental governance, through strengthened multi-sector stakeholder participation, and delivery of environmental services, including monitoring and enforcement of existing laws on coastal resources.

One of the project requirements is the acquisition of sixty (60) units fiberglass motorized multi-purpose boats equipped with diesel engine, minor navigational and lifesaving accessories for multi-use in the enforcement of existing fishery laws and provision of livelihood demonstration projects, along the coastal waters. The boats will be awarded to recognized / organized / qualified Fisheries Resources Management Councils (FARMCS), reputable fishermen's associations and other concerned agencies.

The principal particulars of the multi-purpose boats, are as follows :

Length Overall (LOA)	:	28 ft. to 30 ft.
Length at Deckline	:	not less than 26.0 ft.
Breadth	:	not less than 6.5 ft.
Depth (approx.)	:	2.75 ft.
Draft loaded (approx.)	:	1.8 ft.
Main engine	:	Brand new inboard diesel engine; not less than 16 HP
Maximum trial speed	:	not less than 7.5 knots at light condition, calm weather, 4-6 engineers
Cruising speed	:	about 5 knots
Total maximum number of crew and passengers	:	15 passengers and 2 crew members

Bidding Documents (Requirements for Eligibility, Instructions to Bidders, Terms of Reference and Standard Conditions of Contract) may be secured personally, upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **Philippine Pesos Three Thousand (PhP 3,000.00)**, from the following address:

Development Support Services Center
United Nations Development Programme
30th Floor Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza
6819 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel. No. (632) 901 0273 / 901 0272
Fax No. (632) 901 0200

International suppliers are encouraged to appoint and authorize Philippine-based counterparts to secure the bidding documents and submit proposals for and in their behalf.

The abovementioned Bidding Documents will be released to all interested parties strictly from **December 8 to December 21, 2004 only.** The Bidding Documents shall contain all instructions on the rules, procedures, bid opening dates, and other schedules and requirements.

UNDP reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality therein, accept the bid and award the contract to the most advantageous offer to the UNDP based on UNDP criteria. UNDP assumes no obligation or responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that may be incurred for the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made for this Contract.

(Sgd) **ETHELIND B. CAPUNO**
Manager, DSSC

(PDI--Dec. 7 & 8, 2004)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bids and Awards Committee of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) invites BSP/G-EPS registered companies/ contractors and other interested suppliers to a public bidding for:

Qty/ unit	Particulars	Total Approved Budget for the Contract
One (1) lot	Supply and delivery of three (3) units Steel Body Armored Truck and five (5) units Steel Body Armored Van, US made, per BSP technical specifications and drawing	P101,330,300.00

Delivery Period : Within ninety (90) calendar days after receipt of the Purchase Order.

Bid documents may be obtained from 6 December 2004 to 19 December 2004 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P500.00 or .05% of the Total Approved Budget for the Contract per item whichever is higher but not to exceed P50,000.00, at the following address:

BAC Secretariat
Room 212, 2nd Floor, Five-Storey Building
cor. A. Mabini and P. Ocampo Sr. Streets
Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos. 524-7011 loc. 3097/3098

Pre-bid Conference Date and Time : 20 December 2004 at 9:00 a.m.
Bidding Date and Time : 5 January 2005, at 10:00 a.m.
Place : Room MR2A, 2nd Floor, 5-Storey Building, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Main Complex, Malate, Manila

Interested bidders must submit not later than the bidding date and time the following documents in three (3) separate envelopes:

Envelope No. 1:
1. Articles of Incorporation and Business Registration Papers;
2. Y2003 Audited Financial Statements (Income Statement and Balance Sheet);
3. Y2003 Income Tax Return duly stamped/received by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) or its Authorized Agent Banks;
4. Taxpayer's Identification Number;
5. Valid and current Mayor's permit/municipal license;
6. Prospective bidder's computation of Net Financial Contracting Capacity (NFCC) which shall be at least equal to the ABC, duly signed by the authorized signing official and supported with pertinent documents, i.e. financial statements and copies of on-going project contract/P.O.s; or a commitment from a licensed bank to extend a credit line if awarded the contract to be bid, or a cash deposit certificate in an amount not lower than 10% of the ABC. The NFCC shall be computed as follows: NFCC = [(Current Assets – Current Liabilities) (K) [minus value of all outstanding projects; K=10.
7. Sworn statement that the prospective bidder is not blacklisted from bidding in any Government Office, Agency, Corporation;
8. Letter authorizing the BAC or its duly authorized representative to verify any or all of the documents submitted for eligibility check;
9. Sworn certification by the prospective bidder or his authorized representative that each of the documents submitted is an original copy or a true and faithful reproduction or copy of the original;
10. Affidavit of the prospective bidder that he or she or any officer of the corporation is not related to the head of the procuring entity by consanguinity or affinity up to the third civil degree;
11. Sworn certification from the manufacturer that the local representative/agent is duly authorized to represent him/her in this particular transaction;
12. Sworn certification from a recognized and reputable standard issuing authority that the manufacturer has the latest technology required in fabricating armored vehicles;
13. Sworn certification from the manufacturer attesting full support in supplying vehicle parts, accessories, armoring materials and related items as well as after sales services; and
14. Sworn certification that the supplier/manufacturer has at least three (3) satisfied clients for similar supply contracts complete with the names of the contact persons, addresses and telephone/fax numbers.

All documents required under items no. 11 to 14 submitted by a foreign bidder/manufacturer should be authenticated by the Philippine Consulate Office in the area.

Envelope No. 2:
1. Instructions to Bidders;
2. Certification of Compliance with terms and conditions of the bidding; and
3. Original bid security

Envelope No. 3 – Price Proposal

All envelopes shall be dropped in the bid box located at Rm. MR2A. LATE BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

The BSP assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate and indemnify the bidders for expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

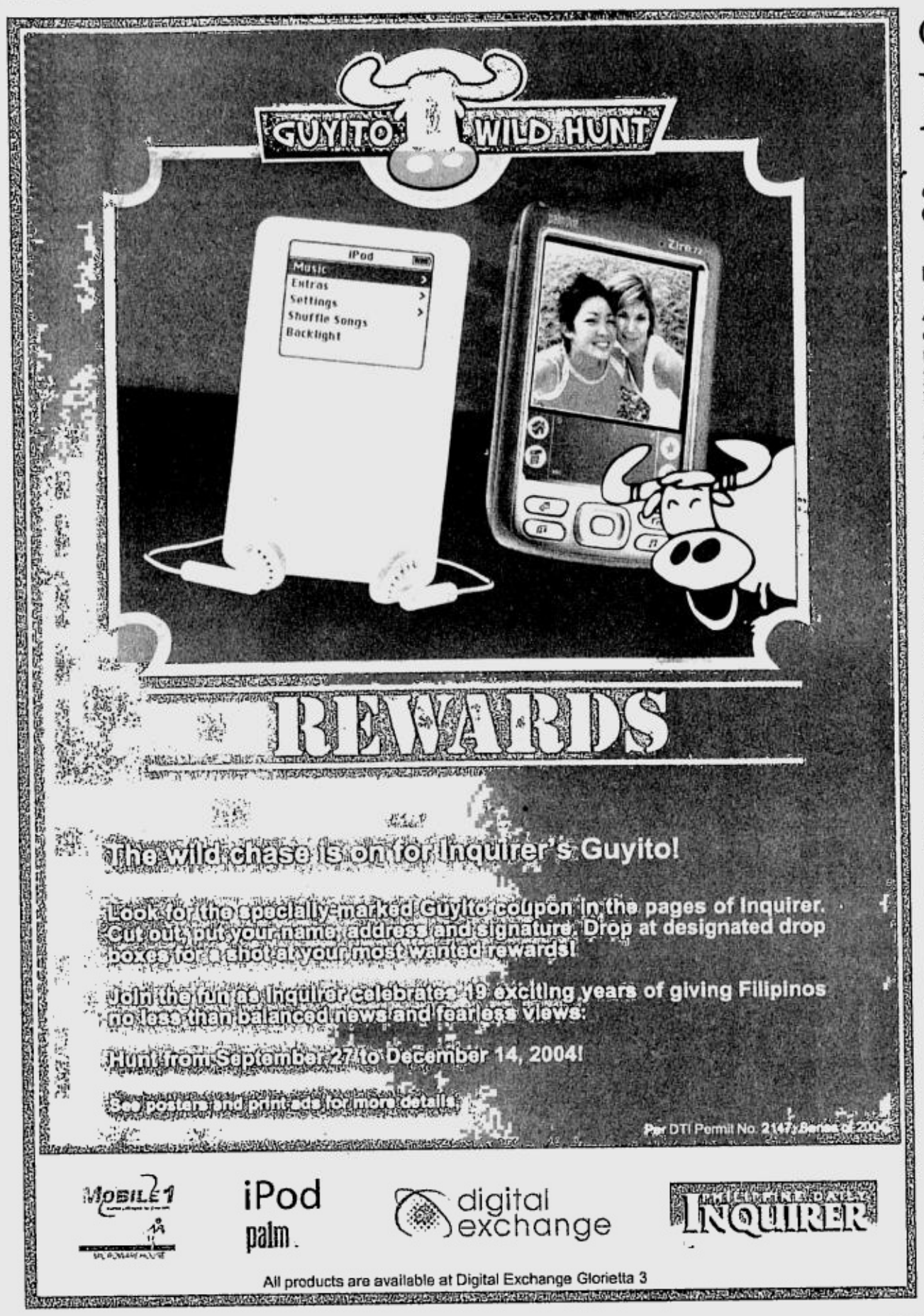
The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract; and make no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **Ma. DOLORES B. YUVIENCO**
Chairperson

(PDI–December 7, 2004)

NOTICE

Ito ay isang patalastas upang ipaalam sa lahat na mayroong LABAS SA HUKUMAN KASUNDUAN NG MGA TAGAPAGMANA ni LUCIA DILLERA at PAGBAUBAYA na ninotaryo ni Atty. Zenaida O Balmas noong Nov. 18, 2004 as per Doc. No. 402. Page No. 81; Book No. 4; Series of 2004 in Quezon City. PAGPAPAUBAYA sa buong karapatan sa MARCO POLO LAND PROPERTIES, INC., na may pahatirang sulat at kalakalan sa 69-A Maginoo St., Diliman, Quezon City sa kataunan ni IMELDA D. SAN PEDRO at TEODORO L. LIM ay magkatuwang nagpapaganap ng kanilang KASUNDUAN (MOA) na ninotaryo ni Atty. Balmas noong Nov. 18, 2004 as per Doc. No. 403; Page No. 81; Book No. 4; Series of 2004 in Quezon City upang maisaayos ang lahat



OIL DEREGULATION LAW

Review seen to drive away investments

By Abigail L. Ho

A REVIEW of existing laws governing the deregulated downstream oil industry is seen to adversely affect the way potential investors perceive the country's investment environment, an oil industry executive said.

Philippine Institute of Petroleum executive director Reynaldo Marquez said in an interview that prospective investors might shy away from the country given the perception that rules here could be changed any time.

"In general, if you adopt a law, especially one affecting big investments, you can't change the rules in the middle of the game. Many investors went into the industry under existing laws and business conditions," he told reporters. "My worry is that this review will have bad effects on investments, not just in the oil industry."

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez said last week he would recommend to Malacañang an "independent review" of Republic Act No. 8479, or the Downstream Oil Industry Deregulation Act of 1998, to determine whether or not changes on the existing law was needed.

He said the public has the perception that the deregulated oil industry was to blame for the unmitigated rise in oil prices in the past months.

An independent review of the law, with all the stakeholder consultations that would be held to support it, would likely create a "renewed consensus on the future of the downstream oil industry," he said.

But Marquez said changes in the current law, if there would be any, would not guarantee a drop in the local prices of local petroleum products.

Instead of doing any good, the review might just drive away potential investments that the country needed to fuel its economic growth.

"There's no such thing as a policy without problems. There's no problem with doing a review, but we desperately need new investments. Changing the rules in the middle of the game will not help us attract those new investments," he said.

Perez declined to reveal the details of his recommendation, saying that the independent review body would not involve any Department of Energy official.

Various militant groups, including party-list group Anakpawis and the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, have been very open in their call for the repeal of the Oil Deregulation Law.

They reasoned that this law was the very root of the country's problems regarding high oil prices as it allowed local oil firms to adjust their prices, usually upward, without consulting the government.

RP to start importing rice in Jan.

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE COUNTRY will import 320,000 metric tons of rice in the first week of January to boost the national buffer stock that has been eaten up by government relief operations in typhoon-stricken areas.

National Food Authority Administrator Gregorio Y. Tan said in an interview yesterday that the country's rice inventory was now down to 6.5 million bags, or good for only 12 days. The country's average rice requirement was placed at 27,000 metric tons daily.

"It has become difficult to bring supplies from rice producing areas such as Ilocos, Cagayan and Nueva Ecija as major roads have not been passable," he said.

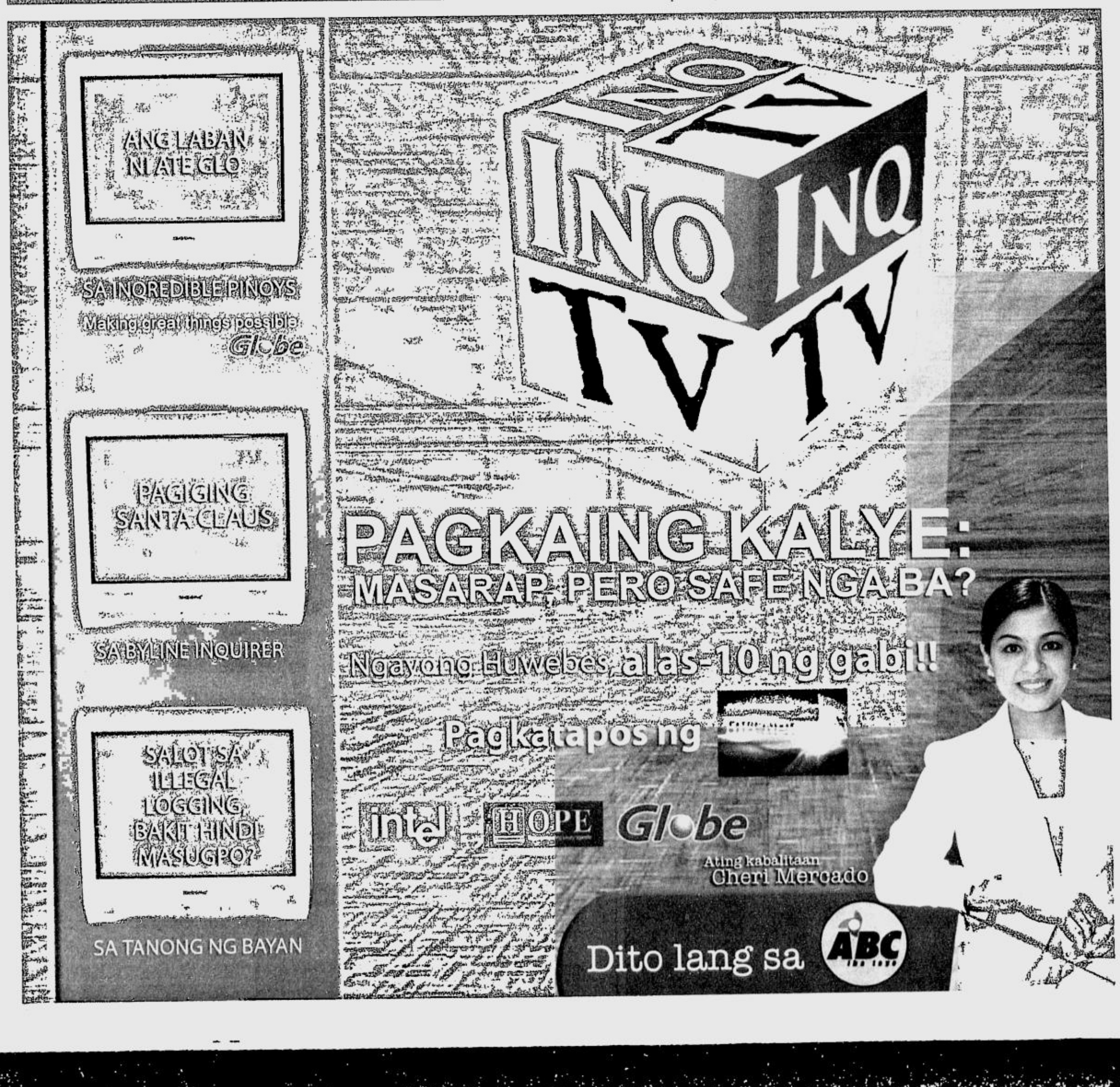
Tan said the NFA needed to buy rice from the international market as early as January to prevent any supply shortage next year, particularly in view of the expected delay in the summer harvest.

"The successive typhoons that hit the country had affected the palay cropping and planting schedules next year," he said.

He admitted that the current tight rice supply situation in the world market might affect the cost of the country's imports.

The current average price in the world market was placed at between $320 and $350 per metric ton, as leading exporters were keeping supplies for their growing domestic demand.

This year's rice importation reached 985,000 metric tons amounting to P13 billion.



A MONEY dealer sits unflinching at his workstation while trading on a foreign exchange market in Tokyo. The dollar traded at 102.13 yen in Tokyo, down 1.39 yen from late Friday. AP

DATA WEAKER THAN EXPECTED

US jobs weigh on Asian stocks; oil weak

SINGAPORE—Dollar and oil price weakness dominated Asian trading on Monday, sending Asian export and resource shares down, but strength in banking stocks supported some Asian stock markets.

Weaker than expected jobs data from the United States had the dollar struggling to hold above a new euro low struck in New York on Friday. Worries about the United States economy have driven the dollar to record euro lows in 8 of the past 9 sessions.

Top Asian exporters fell in sympathy with the dollar.

Toyota Motor Co. lost 1.54 percent. South Korea's Samsung Electronics fell 1.5 percent as the won reached a seven-year high against the dollar.

MSCI's non-Japan index of Asian shares hit its highest level in nearly 5 years, helped by strength in its health care subindex. World stocks as measured by the MSCI edged up 0.17 percent.

"The jobs data brought the market's focus back to the dollar's weakness," said Kikuko Takeda, currency analyst at Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi. "I think we should be prepared to see another round of dollar selling.

Takeda added that the market would likely target a fall towards 100 yen and a rise in the euro to $1.35.

Crude oil stood just above $42 a barrel, after sliding 14 percent last week. Forecasts for a mild US winter piled on the selling pressure in the United States on Friday after an increase in US fuel stocks on Wednesday set off a wave of selling.

Weakening oil prices weighed on resource stocks. China's CNOOC fell 1.2 percent.

The dollar was at around 102.15 yen compared with 102.10 in late US trade on Friday, underpinned by a view that the Bank of Japan may step in to stem the yen's rise.

The euro was at $1.3438, versus 1.3454 in New York and a record high of 1.3461 marked on Friday. Sterling stood at $1.9404 after matching a 12-year peak of 1.9442 earlier in the day. Gold edged up in line with the dollar's weakness.

The dollar tumbled across the board on Friday after US non-farm payrolls rose 112,000 in November, well below economists' median forecast for a rise of 180,000. The jobless rate was 5.4 percent, matching forecasts.

Despite the weak data, a Reuters poll taken after the figures were released found that all 20 primary dealers surveyed expected the US Federal Reserve to raise its key interest rate by a quarter percentage point to 2.25 percent at its December meeting.

Sixteen of the 20 looked for another quarter-point tightening in February.

Tokyo's benchmark Nikkei average was down 0.6 percent at the midsession close at 11,011.02, but Hong Kong's Hang Seng was ahead 0.44 percent at 14,274.57, supported by strong banks.

Strength in bank shares supported main indexes in some markets. Australia's S&P ASX 200 was up 0.5 percent at a new record, led by banks like ANZ, up 1.1 percent, in anticipation there will be no early interest rate rise in Australia.

Singapore's Straits Times fell 0.03 percent while Taiwan's benchmark index added 0.38 percent, underpinned by strong banking stocks. South Korea's KOSPI fell 0.82 percent.

United States oil prices eased 2 cents to $42.52, near a three month low of $42.05 struck on Friday. *Reuters*

US urged to fix deficit to halt dollar drop

PARIS—The United States must fix its deficits to halt a further decline of the dollar, Gerrit Zalm, Dutch finance minister and current chair of the Eurozone's finance ministers, said in an interview with French newspaper Les Echos.

"A good response (to the drop of the dollar) without doubt is to wait until the United States correct their deficits," Zalm said in the interview, which was released on Sunday prior to publication in the paper's Monday edition.

"A declaration from Washington on this would be very useful because it's the budget deficit and American trade deficit which explain the weakness of the dollar," said Zalm, whose country hold the European Union's rotating presidency.

The US government's budget deficit is almost 4 percent of the gross domestic product.

Mounting concerns about the dollar's plunge, which pushed the British pound to a 12-year high last week above $1.94 and the euro to a fresh record, are likely to be voiced when Eurozone finance ministers meet in Brussels.

Possible intervention by the European Central Bank to support the US currency by buying dollars would hardly be effective, Zalm said in the interview. He also dismissed cutting Eurozone interest rates as a possible solution when "inflation is returning."

The ECB on Thursday left interest rates unchanged at 2 percent.

"In the end, let's not forget that the drop of the dollar has a positive effect on our petrol bill and therefore on inflation," Zalm said. *Reuters*

Opec to shift deposits from dollars to euros

LONDON—Members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries have cut the share of their deposits denominated in dollars by over 13 percentage points in the last three years, mainly to the euro's advantage, the Bank for International Settlements said on Sunday.

In its latest quarterly report, the BIS—a forum for world central banks—attributed the trend partly to US interest rates having fallen below eurozone levels.

The report said US dollar-denominated deposits fell to 61.5 percent of total deposits by Opec members in the second quarter of 2004 from 75 percent in the third quarter of 2001.

The share of euro-denominated deposits rose to 20 percent from 12 percent over the same period.

The Basel-based bank is cautious about its findings, noting less oil revenues seem to have gone into the international banking system recently but saying nevertheless there had been a "subtle but noticeable" shift in the composition of deposits in the past three years.

"Since the third quarter of 2001, oil revenue seems to have been channeled increasingly into euro and other currency deposits," the BIS said.

"This shift out of US dollars probably reflected to some extent the relative change in interest rates in the United States and the euro area since 1998."

The BIS said US short term interest rates were on average 2.1 percentage points higher than their euro equivalent between December 1998 and March 2001, but 1.3 percentage points lower on average between April 2001 and June 2004. *Reuters*

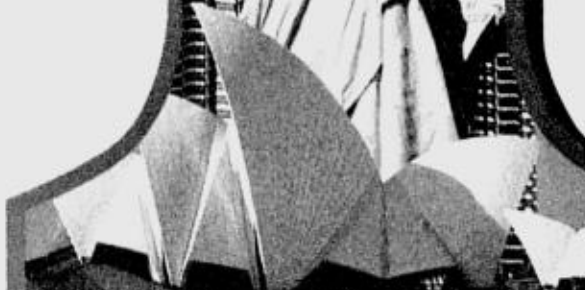
Canon

WORLD'S COPIER No.

Now you can be the leader of your industry

The Number 1 choice for leading organizations worldwide, the Canon copier is your perfect business companion, trusted for its uncompromising reliability and technological superiority. Engineered for high performance and speed, with unsurpassable print quality, it is ideal for both small and large corporations looking for increased productivity and an enhanced competitive advantage.

Furthermore, as the World's Best Selling Copier*, Canon has the honour of being the worldwide market share leader for 2003. So, invest in a world renowned Canon copier now, and lead your business to unprecedented heights.



Canon Color imageRUNNER® series

Color up your workspace. The new Canon Color imageRUNNER® series is the multifunctional top performer, with exceptional looks and stunning print capabilities. Print, scan or copy over your network and the Internet, in cost-saving black and white, as well as full color, anytime on demand. Gain a competitive upper hand, and impress your business clients with extraordinary proposals and presentations.

Contact your local Canon office today, and become the leader of your industry.

*Source: according to "Gartner Dataquest, May 2004(GI045481)", Canon copiers have the no. 1 market share in the world in terms of the total units' sales of plain paper copiers in black and white and color, analogue and digital categories (Data for 2003) Worldwide market excluding Canada, South America, Middle East and Africa.

South & Southeast Asia Regional Headquarters:
Canon Singapore Pte Ltd 1 HarbourFront Avenue, #04-01, Keppel Bay Tower, Singapore 098632 www.canon-asia.com
Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc. Marvin Plaza, 2153 Don Chino Roces Avenue, cor. V.A. Rufino St., Makati City • Tels.: 812-6047 • Fax: 894-4174
E-mail address: info@canon.com.ph • www.canon.com.ph

Branch Offices: CMP-Cebu Door 10, 1P & 20 Free Star Arcade, Hernan Cortes St., Subangdaku, Mandaue City Tels.: (032) 345-3680; (032) 345-3821 Fax: (032) 344-6776 • CMP-Davao 301 E. Palma Gil St., Bo. Obrero Davao, City Tel.. (082) 277-4820 Fax: (082) 222-3392 • CMP-La Union Ground Floor, M. Peralta Bldg., Quezon Ave., Sevilla Norte, San Fernando City, La Union Tels.: (072) 242-4587; (072) 242-0440 • CMP-Legaspi Door 7 & 8 Ground Floor, CEA Bldg., Lapu-Lapu St., Legaspi City Tels.: (052) 480-6331; (052) 820-2083 Fax: (052) 214-3863 CMP-Pampanga Pistahan Bldg., McArthur Highway, Dolores, San Fernando, Pampanga Tel.: (045) 961-6496

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Regional Field Unit No. 6, Iloilo City
Tel. No. 3378812 / 3373549 Telefax: 3364219

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Agriculture, Regional Field Unit No. 6, Iloilo City is inviting licensed Contractors and Suppliers to apply for Registration & Eligibility and to Bid for the following projects:

1. **Construction of Multi-Purpose Warehouse at Brgy. Casalangan, Pototan, Iloilo (Labor and Materials)**
   Approved Budget : P4,258,444.05
   Source of Fund : Production Support Component GMA Rice
2. **Procurement of Postharvest Equipment for Hybrid Seed Growers at Brgy. Casalangan, Pototan, Iloilo as follows:**
   2 units — Maligaya Flatbed Dryer (PhilRice Design), 6 ton capacity with 12 hp diesel engine (or 10 hp electric motor), blower and rice hull furnace
   2 units — Grain Cleaner (PhilRice Design), chassis mounted with 2 pneumatic wheels and 6 hp gasoline engine
   1 unit — Bag closer
   1 unit — Weighing Scale, platform type, 500 kg. capacity
   1 unit — Moisture Tester
   Approved Budget : P741,555.95
   Source of Fund : Production Support Component GMA Rice

Minimum Required Bid Security in any form:

Form of Bid Security	Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid
Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's Check, Manager's Check, Bank Draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit	1%
Bank Guarantee	1 ½%
Surety Bond (Callable on demand issued by the GSIS or by surety or insurance company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commissioner)	2 ½%
Foreign Government Guarantee	100%

The following are the related activities and schedule:

• Deadline for submission of Letter of Intent, Registration & Eligibility Requirements	December 14, 2004 not later than 5:00 p.m.
Eligibility Check	December 15, 2004 9:00 a.m. DA War Room
• Issuance of Bid documents up to (after paying unrefundable amount of P1,000.00 for info only)	December 16, 2004
• Pre-Bid Conference	December 17, 2004 9:00 a.m. DA War Room
• Deadline for Submission of Bids	December 31, 2004 9:30 a.m. DA War Room
• Opening of Bids	December 31, 2004 10:00 a.m. DA War Room

Bid proposals exceeding the stated Approved Budget shall be rejected outright.

All Bids shall be marked "DO NOT OPEN BEFORE (date & time of opening of Bids)" and addressed as follows:

The Chairman, BAC
Department of Agriculture RFU6
Parola, Iloilo City
Bid No. 2004-24&25

The Department of Agriculture reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defects or formality therein, and accept responsive proposals most advantageous to the government and assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify any bidders for expenses and losses that may be incurred in the preparation of Bids nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) ENGR. RICARDO D. OBLENA, CESO III
Regional Executive Director

DA website: www.geocities.com/darfu6

(PDI - Dec. 1 & 7, 2004)

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

NOTICE OF DISPOSITION

The National Housing Authority is inviting *Offers to Purchase* on an *"As Is – Where Is"* basis, the following properties:

I. SECOND OFFERING

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	BASE PRICE
001-019	19 commercial lots, with areas ranging from 87 to 328 sq.m. With title	Phase XI, Bagong Silang, Caloocan City	PhP 3, 200.00 to PhP 3,520.00/sq.m.
020	1 commercial lot 470 sq.m. With titles	Phase X Bagong Silang, Caloocan City	Php 2,000.00/sq.m.
021-026	6 commercial lots 1,000 to 1145 sq.m. With titles	Pleasant Hills Subd. San Jose Del Monte Bulacan	PhP 10,000.00/sq.m.
027-283	257 commercial lots with areas ranging from 170 to 287 sq.m. With titles	Pandacaqui, Pampanga	Php 1,500.00 to Php 1,800.00/sq.m.
284-285	2 commercial lots 1,000 sq.m. each With titles	Bulihan, Silang Cavite	Php 7,000.00/sq.m.

Terms of payment for the above-cited properties are: Minimum of Ten Percent (10%) deposit; Options for repayment period are ***Cash, Modified Cash*** (Six (6) equal installments without interest) or ***Installment*** for a maximum period of ***Ten (10) years*** with graduated interest rates.

Bidding Materials can be secured for a non-refundable fee of Php 200.00 from the ***Commercial/ Industrial Bids & Awards Committee (COINBAC) c/o the Commercial & Industrial Estates Department (CIED)***, Second Floor, NHA Main Bldg., Elliptical Road, Quezon City. Bidding Materials for Pandacaqui properties can also be secured from the NHA-NCL Regional Office, Brgy. Maimpis, San Fernando, Pampanga. Contact Person: Engr. Romuel Alimboyao Tel. No. 045-9611248.

For further inquiry, please contact *Ms. Evelyn V. Ramos* at the following *Tel. Nos. of CIED: (02) 922-3002 (02) 926-4551 local 263 & 264.*

SCHEDULE OF PUBLIC BIDDING		BAGONG SILANG/PLEASANT HILLS/ PANDACAQUI/BULIHAN
A.	Submission of Pre-Qualification Requirements	Dec. 6 to 10, '04 Office Hours, NHA Main Office, Elliptical Rd., Diliman, Quezon City
B.	Pre-Bid Conference	Dec. 6, 2004, 10:00 a.m. Operations Center, 3rd Floor, NHA Main Office
C.	Submission of Sealed Bids	Dec. 13, '04, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon Operations Center
D.	Opening of Sealed Bids	Dec. 13, '04, 1:30 p.m. Operations Center

The AUTHORITY reserves the right to *reject* any or all offers or any part thereof or to waive any required formalities and *accept* offers most advantageous to the interest of NHA.

(Sgd.) JOSEPH PETER S. SISON
Chairman, COINBAC

(PDI – December 7, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Regional Field Unit No. 6, Iloilo City
Tel. No. 3378812 / 3373549 / 3376006 Telefax: 3364219

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Agriculture, Regional Field Unit No. 6, Iloilo City is inviting licensed Contractors/Suppliers to apply for Registration & Eligibility and to Bid for the **Construction of One (1) unit Slaughterhouse for Iloilo City**

Approved Budget : P6,000,000.00
Source of Fund : GMA Livestock Program Continuing Appropriations

Minimum Required Bid Security in any form:

Form of Bid Security	Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid
Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's Check, Manager's Check, Bank Draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit	1%
Bank Guarantee	1 ½%
Surety Bond (Callable on demand issued by the GSIS or by surety or insurance company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commissioner)	2 ½%
Foreign Government Guarantee	100%

The following are the related activities and schedule:

• Deadline for submission of Letter of Intent, Registration & Eligibility Requirements	December 14, 2004 not later than 5:00 p.m.
Eligibility Check	December 15, 2004 9:00 a.m. DAR War Room
• Issuance of Bid documents up to (after paying unrefundable amount of P1,000.00)	December 16, 2004
• Pre-Bid Conference	December 17, 2004 9:00 a.m. DA War Room
• Deadline for Submission of Bids	December 31, 2004 9:30 a.m. DAR War Room
• Opening of Bids	December 31, 2004 10:00 a.m. DA War Room

Bid proposals exceeding the stated Approved Budget shall be rejected outright.

All Bids shall be marked "DO NOT OPEN BEFORE (date & time of opening of Bids)" and addressed as follows:

The Chairman, BAC
Department of Agriculture RFU6
Parola, Iloilo City
Bid No. 2004-23

The Department of Agriculture reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defects or formality therein, and accept responsive proposals most advantageous to the government and assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify any bidders for expenses and losses that may be incurred in the preparation of Bids nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) ENGR. RICARDO D. OBLENA, CESO III
Regional Executive Director

DA website: www.geocities.com/darfu6
(PDI–Dec. 1 & 7, 2004)

POEA 24-HR HOTLINES 722-1144 • 722-1155

LXML
ລ້ານຊ້າງ ມິເນໂຮນ ຈຳກັດ
LANE XANG MINERALS LIMITED
Oxiana LIMITED

Lane Xang Minerals Limited is a subsidiary of the international mining company Oxiana Limited and is currently operating the Sepon Gold Mine in Savannakhet Province, Lao PDR. Construction of a 60,000tpa copper plant is also underway, with production expected to commence in 2005.

The roster cycle for this position is 28/14/12. Whilst on site, employees live in a pleasant camp environment with laundry and meal services provided by the Company. Recreational facilities include a gym, volleyball and badminton courts, TV / Table Tennis and Pool Room.

We are currently seeking expressions of interest for the following position with a tentative commencement date of December 2004/January 2005.

SHIFT SUPERVISOR / TRAINER

Reporting to the Shift Coordinator the incumbent will be responsible for:

- Work in conjunction with the Operations Trainer and Shift Coordinators to implement pre-commissioning and training programs for Lao Nationals.
- Work in conjunction with LXML commissioning personnel to achieve commissioning targets.
- Achieve environmental, operational and maintenance targets within the company's safety system and KPI's.
- Consult widely with site (gold and copper) personnel to ensure all LXML operating and other procedures are adhered to.

To apply you will require over 5 years+ Process Operating (hands on) experience in the minerals processing industry, particularly in Copper/ Gold processing and be able to demonstrate good knowledge of hydrometallurgical processes. Sound knowledge and operating experience in commissioning, Supervision, Jameson cells, Flotation and Counter current decantation circuits is essential for this role.

In addition you will require good written and oral communication skills and sound knowledge of the MS Office suite of applications. Sensitivity to the Lao culture is essential in all expatriate roles, with previous experience in an overseas operation well regarded.

Further information regarding the Sepon project please visit our website at **www.oxiana.com.au.**

Interested applicants should send a resume, including referee details, by email to **thomason@lxmlmine.com** with the *POSITION TITLE* in the subject field. **Applications close on 12 December 2004.**

JOB ASIA MANAGEMENT SERVICES
License No. POEA-323-LB-070402-R
Tels 927-9096 / 4163110
4/F Columbian Bldg., 160 West Ave., near EDSA, Quezon City

For Manpower Pooling Only, Beware of Illegal Recruiters, No Fees to be collected

---

THE HARRY POUND COMPANY
Presents

THE ULTIMATE COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE:

TOTAL QUALITY DRIVEN SELLING

The MOST EXPLOSIVE SALES EVENT of Year 2005 that will lead to your company's Massive Growth and Total Market Domination!!!

Applying the Revolutionary 'Quality-Driven' principles to every phase of selling will make your company much more powerful in its commitment to being the best, producing the best, resulting in your BEST Sales Performance ever!

Kick-Start the year right... Mark your calendar for you and your Sales Team: Monday, January 31, 2005 (8:30 am- 5:30 pm)

With "Total Quality DRIVEN Selling" your salespeople will close more business and get closer to prospects and customers in ways far superior to your competition.

RATES PER SEAT:
Super Value Rate: P2,399 Starting October 1, 2004 strictly until December 17, 2004 only
Early Bird Rate: P2,499 Starting December 18, 2004 strictly until January 15, 2005 only
Regular Rate: P2,599 Starting January 16, 2005 on...

Total Quality DRIVEN Selling requires a high degree of team work with by company participants (over 2 million over the last 5 years) so get in your team counts!

Required No. of Participants	Discounted Rate/seat	Actual Savings	Promo Duration
10	P1,899.00	P1,000.00	Until December 17, 2004
18	P1,799.00	P3,600.00	Until December 17, 2004

REGISTER NOW! Call HARRY ANGELS Tel.: 404-2753, 523-1718, 526-1909 Cell No.: 0917-327-7271
E-mail: GetSuccessNow@HarryPound.com

Media Partners: Philippine Daily Inquirer, Goway, BusinessWorld
Also brought to you by: Sparrow Magazine, Informatics, Probe.com, Sun Life Financial, WEB, BusinessWeek, The Economist, Computerworld, PC World, Enterprise

---

The Pearl Garden Hotel Manila: On the pursuit of excellence

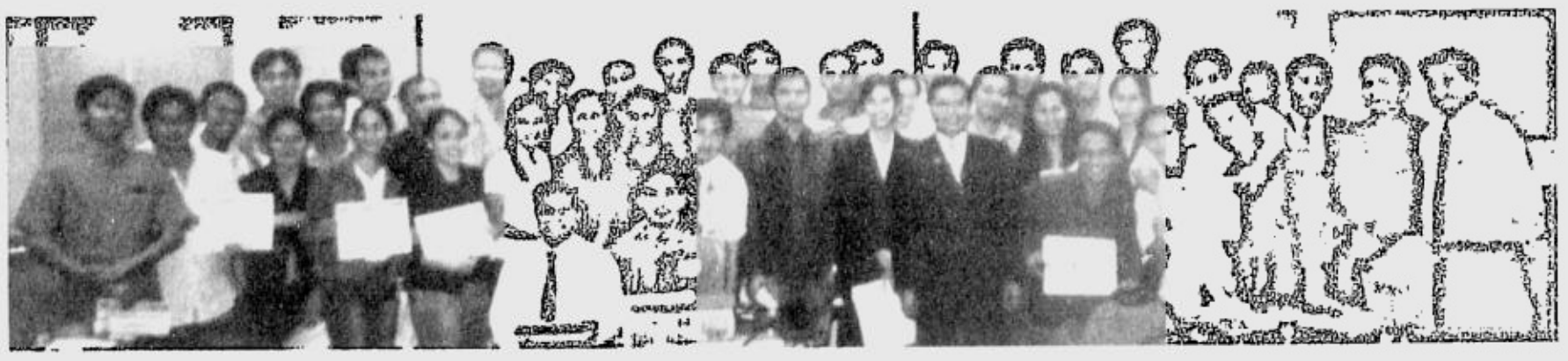
THE SERVICE personnel of Pearl Garden Hotel Manila on their commencement exercises after their "Power of Service Excellence" Training and Workshop conducted by Interlink Manpower Development and General Services, Inc., last Oct. 18-19 for the first batch and Oct. 25-26 for the second batch, held at the Daffodil and Iris function rooms of the hotel. Mr. Rafael S. Chico, the president of Interlink and a Hotel Consultant was the resource speaker of the said training.

PEARL GARDEN HOTEL MANAGER'S TRAINING

The Pearl Garden Hotel's supervisors and managers after their training entitled "The Power of Management in Control" in preparation to facing the challenges of the hotel industry. Sitting in front (from left): Rodrigo Basea, F&B manager; Rafael S. Chico, president of Interlink; Elmer Andes, purchasing officer; Virgie Bayot, executive housekeeper; Cynthia Astorga, hotel manager; Tyrone Co and Brian Co. Standing at the back (from left): Lavenio Mardo, Jr., Mocha Blend Management trainee; James Guash, F.O. supervisor; Mae Janice Mercado, housekeeping supervisor; Jocelyn Libertino, HR assistant; Marilen Sy, sales and marketing supervisor; Lilibeth Guevara, housekeeping supervisor; Salvador Amaclo, F&B supervisor; Jennifer Razon, general cashier; Millicent Pada, Mocha Blend shift manager; Chef Ronito Cadungog, executive chef.

"Are you ready for Christmas?"

CHRISTMAS is just around the corner and in line with the holidays on Up Close and Personal with Marissa Del Mar; the show will feature the so called "House of Santa", the "Biggest *Parol*" and how Filipino people prepares for Christmas 2004. The episode which will be aired on Tuesday, Dec. 7, 2004 at IBC 13, 11 p.m. is entitled "Are you ready for Christmas. Host Marissa Del Mar is an Officer of the Rotary District 3830, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry Officer, Beauty Queen, Actress, P.R.O of the National Real Estate Association, Inc., All Nations Women Group (member), to charter Rotary Club of Makati Nielsen, Rotary Club of Makati-Urdaneta (member), and Director of the Parañaque Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Up Close and Personal with Marissa Del Mar, produced by Millicent Productions, Inc., further aims to elevate to a different level of Philippine broadcast journalism.



WESTIN PHILIPPINE PLAZA TRAINING

The Power of Service Excellence Training and Workshop for the inorganic employees of Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel was at the Panay function room of the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel Nov. 3. The objective of the training is to prepare them to face the challenges of the hospitality industry through excellent service. Flanked by the trainees and coordinators, standing in front - fifth from the right is Marian Villar, HR manager; standing beside Villar is the president of Interlink, Rafael S. Chico (standing in front, fourth from the right).

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 897-8425 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 8978425
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 522-4406 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

OBITUARIES

*The newest and most modern Funeral Home & Crematory in the country!
Trunk Line: (632) 845-2334 to 38
Direct Line: (632) 845-2440

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES

· OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments

DR. DAISY VISTA Le MERCIER

of Rizal, Laguna

Died in the Grace of our Lord on December 4, 2004 at the age of 61.

From all of us she has left behind: **Capt. and Mrs. Leonardo Vista, Camilo Jr.** and **Nilda Vista, Willie** and **Edna Nerie, Danny** and **Eva Del Valle, Noel** and **Nora Antay, Eddie** and **Fely Vista, Boy** and **Marlene Vista**; all nephews, nieces, grand nephews and grand nieces and other relatives request prayers for her eternal repose.

Interment will be on Thursday, December 9, 2004, 2:00 p.m. at Rizal Memorial Park, Rizal, Laguna.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."
— 2 Corinthians 5:8

MARIA CRISTINA QUIZON MAGSARILI

Peacefully joined our Lord on December 4, 2004 at the age of 76.

Her husband, **ATTY. RODOLFO R. MAGSARILI**; her children **VICTOR & STEPHANIE, RODOLFO JR. & MARILOU, ALBERTO & MARISE, MARIA CRISTINA & ERNESTO** and their CHILDREN together with her sister **LOLITA B. QUIZON** give thanks to the Lord for the blessing of her life.

Interment today, December 7, 2004 at the San Juan Batangas Cemetery after the 3:00 PM Mass at the San Juan Nepomuceno Parish.

Seventeenth Death Anniversary
of

JAIME V. ONGPIN

June 15, 1938 – December 7, 1987

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
— John 3:16

Trust in the Lord and do good... Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart.....
Psalm 37:3, 4

Martina "Teny" Samia Santos

Born on December 20, 1927
Died on December 2, 2004

Her bereaved husband **Rodolfo L. Santos** (†); children **Andy, Ding, Marie** & **Billy del Rosario, Ed** & **Mariteh, Ser** & **Bunny, Rey** & **Sheila; Dottie** & **Alex Canlas, Lylii, Edna, Leny, Ermie** & **Amy**; grandchildren **Brooky, Stephanie, Christine, Monique, Paolo, Cielo, Myklo, Anton, Emil, Bianca, Carlo, Bernadette, Abby, Nikka, Mikey, JC, Patrick, Luigi, JP** & **Chris** request other relatives and friends to join them in praying for her eternal happiness in heaven.

Her body lies in state at the Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Broadway, New Manila, Quezon City.

The Funeral Mass will be on Friday, December 10, 2004 at 12 Noon and the interment will follow immediately at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat Road, Parañaque City.

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

METRO MANILA

• LAS PIÑAS
FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
187 Real St., Zapote Alabang, Las Piñas; Tels. 873-0507; 873-0024

• MAKATI
DON BOSCO CHAPELS
Pasay Road, Makati City; Tel. 894-5932 to 34
FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
865 J.P. Rizal St., Poblacion, Makati City; Tels. 890-3556; 899-8191
LOYOLA MEMORIAL CHAPELS
EDSA cor. Bernardino St., Guadalupe, Makati City; Tels. 895-1011 to 19
MALABED FUNERAL SERVICE
3-A Coronado St., Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City; Tel. 890-63-18
SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH
Forbes Park, Makati City; Tel. Nos. 843-8838/30; Fax No. 843-9223
ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH
Magallanes Village, Makati City; Tels. 852-8228; 852-7284

• MALABON
FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME
219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion, Malabon, Metro Manila;
Tels. 2812963; 2813034; 2810522

• MANDALUYONG
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City; Telefax 724-4139; 725-2044

• MANILA
DULCE MEMORIAL SERVICES
Jose Abad Santos Ave. cor. Dinalupihan St., Manuguit, Manila
Tels. 712-5102; 741-5125; 741-5133; Fax No. 711-3064
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
1501 C.M. Recto Ave. cor. T. Mapua, Manila;
Tels. 711-6931 to 35; 732-4795; 732-2827
POPULAR MEMORIAL CHAPELS, INC.
2141 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila; Tel. Nos. 254-0867, 254-0839
ST. MARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL
16-15 G. Tuazon cor. Loreto St., Sampaloc, Manila;
Tels. 749-3679; 781-1772
UNIVERSAL FUNERAL SERVICE & MEMORIAL CHAPELS
2028 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila; Tels. 493-4458; 493-4540
WELINGTON FUNERAL SERVICES
1511 Gen. Luna St., Paco, Manila; Tel. 302-5447

• MARIKINA
ERIC SANTIAGO MEMORIAL CHAPELS
26 Bayanbayan Ave., Concepcion I, Marikina City;
Tels. 942-6044; 475-1177
F. SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
9 V. Gomez & 13 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City;
Tels. 646-1725 or 646-1730
LOYOLA MEMORIAL PARK CHAPELS & CREMATORY SERVICES
Loyola Memorial Park, A. Bonifacio Avenue, Tañong, Marikina City
Tels. 941-3196 to 98; 941-3676; Telefax 941-3577
PAKET SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
13 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City; Tels. 646-1725; 646-1730

• PARAÑAQUE
HOLY TRINITY MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat Rd., Sucat, Parañaque City;
Tels. 825-1296; 825-1291, Telefax: 825-1314
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, SUCAT, INC.
Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque;
Tels. 820-1592; 825-9947; 825-8635
LINCOLN MEMORIAL SERVICES, INC.
Ground Floor, JEMP Bldg., J. Cabarrus cor. Monserrat Sts., Phase I,
BF Commercial Center, Parañaque, Metro Manila
RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
8187 Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque City
Tels. 826-1376; 826-9682; (0915) 712-1220

• PASAY
RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
438 Cementina St., Pasay City; Tels. 831-1204
VERONICA MEMORIAL HOMES
Official NBI Morgue 517-A Arnaiz St., Pasay City;
Tels. 831-3797; 844-7846; 843-1801; 845-4836

• PASIG
ARLINGTON EAST THE GARDEN CHAPELS
C. Raymundo St. cor. Mercedes Ave., San Miguel Ave., Pasig City
Tels. 747-8599; 747-8609 • Telefax 641-1760
FUNERARIA ANGEL QUIOGUE
No. 67 Pasig Boulevard Extension, Pasig City; Tels. 641-7909; 641-1735

• QUEZON CITY
ARLINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL
12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City;
Tels. 715-1025; 715-1031; 715-1027
LA FUNERARIA LAWRENCE BAQUIRAN
#23 Pato St., Project 2, Quezon City; Tel. 434-3258
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
143 G. Araneta Ave. cor. Kaliraya St., Quezon City
Tels. 749-3806 to 11; 712-3001; 743-6502 or 05
NACIONAL MEMORIAL HOMES
264 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City;
Tels. 713-5231 to 35; 714-0867; 714-0868
ST. PETER FUNERAL HOMES
296 Quezon Ave., Quezon City; Tels. 372-5084; 410-9286/87

• TAGUIG-PATEROS
FUNERARIA ANGEL QUIOGUE
M. Almeda St., Pateros, Metro Manila; Tels. 642-3010; 633-3602
GARDEN OF MEMORIES MEMORIAL PARK
Calsadang Bago, Pateros, Metro Manila; Tels. 642-6181 to 82
HERITAGE PARK
Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Tels. (DL) 845-2341 to 42; (TL) 845-2334 to 38 loc. 110/112

PROVINCIAL

• ALBAY
LIGÑON HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS, INC.
Bugtong Road, Legaspi City; Tels. (052) 820-0188; 0917-2074152

• BACOLOD
ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Ground Flr. Rolling Hills Chapel, 27th-Lacson St., Mandalagan,
Bacolod City; Tel. 433-7132

• BAGUIO
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
79 Naguilian Rd., Baguio City; Tel. (074) 443-3337; (074) 442-3117

• BATAAN
SANTUARIO GARDEN & CHAPELS
Talisay Road, Balanga City, Bataan; Tels. (047) 2370643 • 7911766

• BULACAN
FUNERARIA TUASON
Poblacion, San Miguel, Bulacan 3011;
Tels. (044) 764-0281; 678-0266; (0917) 895-0603

• CAVITE
FUNERARIA SAMSON
145 Bayan Luma, Imus, Cavite; Tels. (046) 471-3375; 471-2675
LA FUNERARIA SAPINOSO
G. Tirona St., Imus, Cavite;
Tels. (046) 471-3386; (046) 471-4417; (046) 571-1978

• CEBU
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City; Tels. 231-0721; 231-3192
CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch: A.S. Fortuna Street, Banilad, Mandaue City, Cebu;
Tels. 346-2543; 346-2601

• DAVAO
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City;
Tels. (082) 227-1201; 227-1258

• ILOCOS
LA FUNERARIA LAWRENCE BAQUIRAN
#27 Crisologo St., Vigan, Ilocos Sur; Tel. 722-2730;
Cell (0917) 5680136; (0917) 5680145

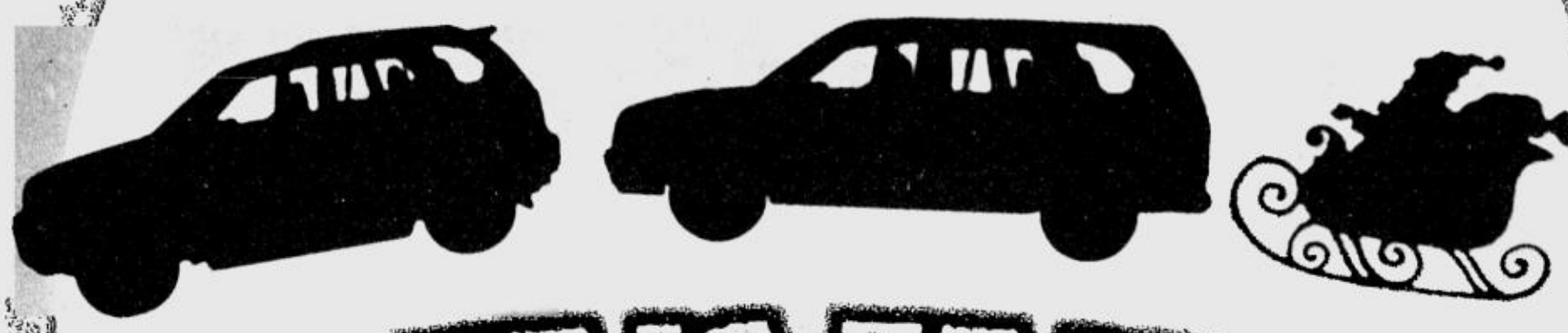
• LAGUNA
SAN RAMON FUNERAL HOMES
2020 Brgy. Dita, Sta. Rosa, Laguna
Tels. (049) 837-5652; 531-4142; Fax (049) 531-4989
ZUASOLA FUNERAL HOMES
Brgy. Del Remedio, San Pablo City, Laguna
Tels. (049) 562-1668; 800-2914 Cel. No. (0917) 5016963

• PAMPANGA
FUNERARIA PANGILINAN
Santo Entierro cor. P. Burgos St., Lourdes Sur, Angeles City
Tels. (045) 888-2959 ; (045) 322-5247

• RIZAL
OUR LADY OF PEACE MEMORIAL PARK
CHAPEL & SERVICES, INC.
No. 6 Carigma St., Antipolo City 1870
Tel. No: 697-0782; 697-0026; 650-7426; Fax : 697-2764
F. SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
Guitnang Bayan, San Mateo, Rizal; Tels. 649-5949; 942-4460
HOLY GARDENS MEMORIAL PARK
Third Level, Unishoppe Complex, Quezon Ave., Angono, Rizal
Tels. 651-1711; 651-0737
MARIAN MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Marcos Hiway, Antipolo, Rizal; Tels. 645-1855

• ZAMBALES
DALLUAY MEMORIAL SERVICES
#42 Upper Kalaklan, Olongapo City
Tels. (047) 222-3605; (047) 811-1086; (047) 222-4512; (047) 224-2014
OLONGAPO MEMORIAL PARK
Del Rosario St., Tabacuhan, Sta. Rita, Olongapo; Tel. No. (047) 223-1692

Passion



TOYOTA'S FANTASTIC DECEMBER OFFERS

FOR AS LOW AS

P12,290

PER MONTH*

AT ONLY

80K!**

DOWNPAYMENT

In this season of giving, Toyota is giving you the chance to own a REVO for as low as P12,290 per month* at only 80K downpayment.** Plus longer payment schemes of up to 72 months!***

REVO FINANCING SCHEMES

VARIANT	SRP	LOW DP	12	18	24	36	48	60	72
VX200 2.0 GAS A/T (Leather)	970,000	100,000	74,016	51,016	40,423	29,124	23,763	20,152	18,901
VX200 2.4 DSL M/T (Leather)	958,000	100,000	75,612	52,119	41,267	29,731	24,258	20,587	19,309
SR 1.8 GAS A/T	896,000	100,000	67,342	46,416	36,782	26,500	21,622	18,335	17,196
GSX 2.0 GAS A/T	847,000	100,000	62,921	43,370	34,371	24,763	20,205	17,131	16,067
GLX 1.8 GAS A/T	807,000	90,000	60,215	41,505	32,895	23,699	19,337	16,395	15,376
GL 1.8 GAS M/T	698,000	80,000	51,500	35,349	28,023	20,189	16,473	13,963	13,096
DLX 2.4 DSL M/T	690,000	80,000	53,242	36,698	29,063	20,938	17,084	14,496	13,596
DLX 1.8 GAS M/T (12.07%)	663,000	80,000	48,583	33,173	26,301	18,948	15,460	13,103	12,290
DLX 1.8 GAS M/T (50%)	663,000	331,500	27,625	18,417	13,856	9,890	8,037	6,776	6,336

RAV4 FINANCING SCHEMES

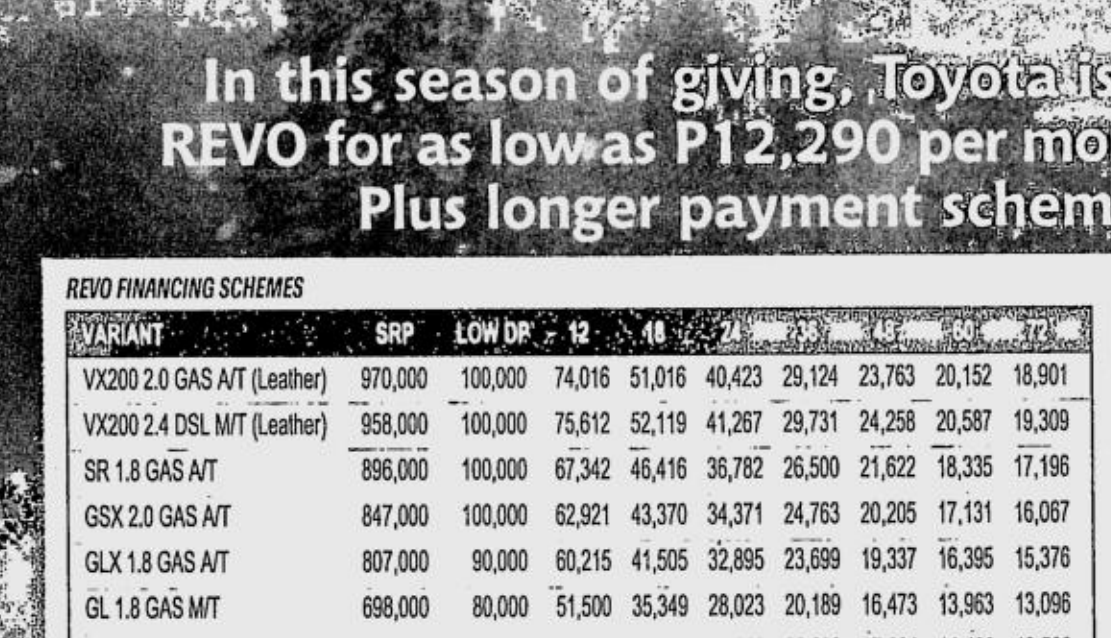
VARIANT	SRP	LOW DP	12	18	24	36	48	60	72
4X4 A/T	1,268,000	100,000	104,473	72,011	57,281	41,065	33,506	28,444	26,678
4X2 SV M/T	1,048,000	100,000	84,626	58,331	46,401	33,266	27,142	23,041	21,610

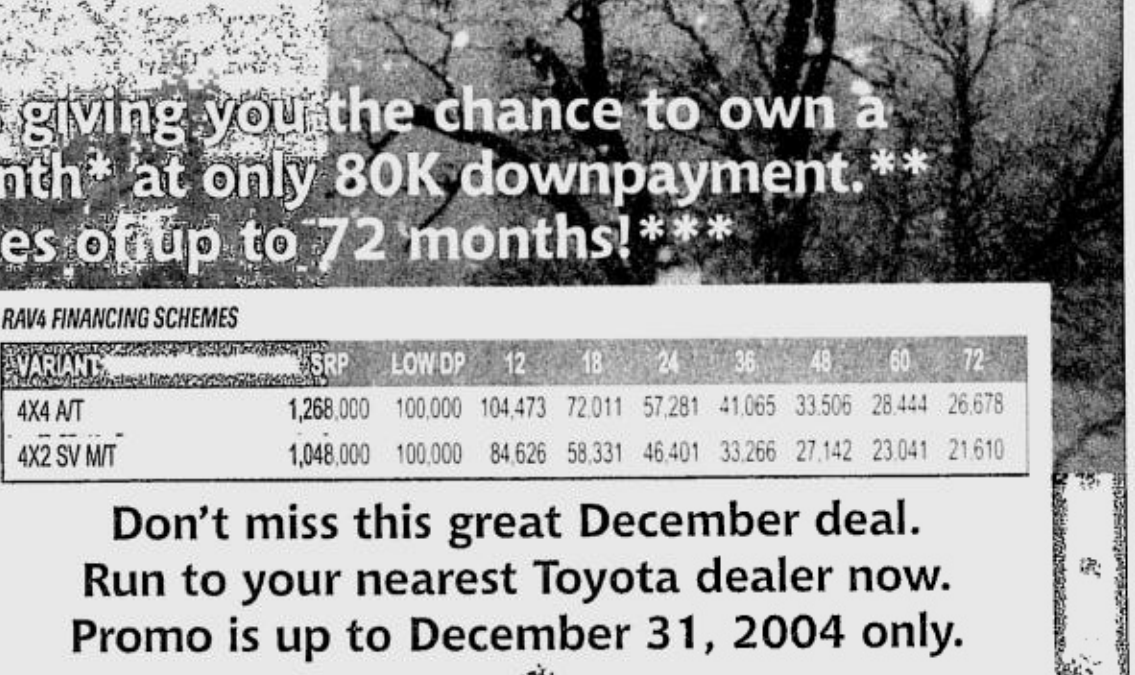
Don't miss this great December deal.
Run to your nearest Toyota dealer now.
Promo is up to December 31, 2004 only.

*Revo DLX 1.8 Gas M/T at P80,000 downpayment, 72 months to pay.
**Revo GL 1.8 Gas M/T, Revo DLX 1.8 Gas M/T, Revo DLX 2.4 Dsl M/T
***All participating REVO and RAV4 variants

For areas covered by Toyota Financial Services

TOYOTA FINANCIAL SERVICES
FOR A TOYOTA, GO TO TOYOTA





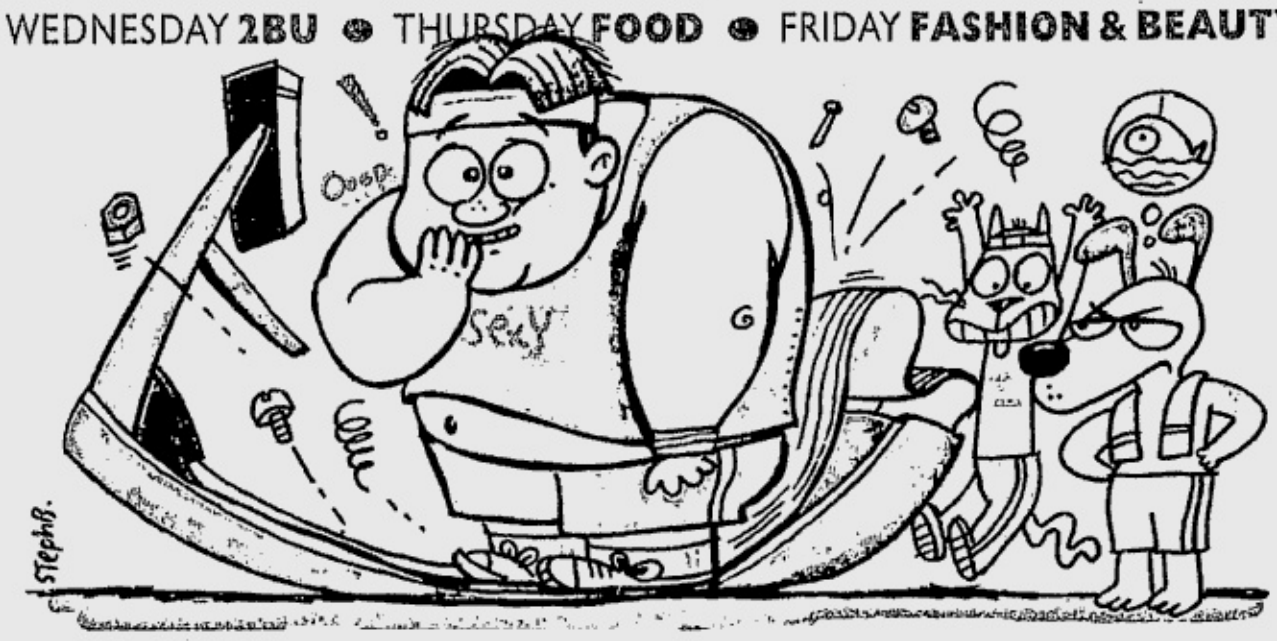
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3149 Series of 2004.

3 YEARS WARRANTY 100,000 KM
www.toyota.com.ph

TOYOTA FINANCIAL SERVICES 858-8500
TOYOTA DEALER NETWORK: TOYOTA ALABANG, INC., Alabang-Zapote Rd. cor. Concha Cruz Drive 800-0801 to 32 / 802-1991 TOYOTA BACOLOD CITY, Gardenville Subdivision, Araneta St., Bacolod City (034) 444-1811 to 13 TOYOTA BAGUIO CITY, Bokawkan Road cor. Aguila St., Baguio City (074) 447-0851 / (074) 300-3273 to 74 / (074) 300-4128 / 3825 / (074) 443-6778 TOYOTA BALINTAWAK, INC., EDSA cor. Vicente Ang & Gen. Evangelista Sts., Kalookan City 366-8901 to 06 / 364-1547 to 50 / 364-4071 to 75 TOYOTA BALINTAWAK-NORTH, 1010 Epifanio De Los Santos Ave. (EDSA), Quezon City 927-7215 / 17 / 30 / 39 / 927-7242 / 44 / 48 / 52 / 927-7257 / 62 / 65 / 927-7268 / 69 TOYOTA BATANGAS CITY, INC., Diversion Road, Barangay Balagtas, Batangas City (043) 723-7386 / (043) 723-7639 TOYOTA CABANATUAN CITY, INC. Km. 118 Maharlika Highway, Daang Sarile, Cabanatuan City (044) 463-8481 to 87 TOYOTA CAGAYAN DE ORO, INC., Km. 3 National Highway, Kauswagan, Cagayan de Oro City (08822) 735-770 / 791 / 845 / (088) 858-0994 / (088) 858-7770 (08822) 737-469 TOYOTA CEBU CITY, INC., 34 M.J. Cuenco St., Cebu City (032) 253-1161 TOYOTA CEBU-MANDAUE, Tabok, Mandaue City (032) 345-8670 TOYOTA COMMONWEALTH, Commonwealth Ave., Quezon City 952-1021 to 27 TOYOTA CUBAO, INC., 926 Aurora Blvd., Cubao, Quezon City 911-0651 to 63 TOYOTA DAGUPAN CITY, INC., Diversion Road, Barangay San Miguel, Calasiao, Pangasinan (075) 517-2026 to 28 (075) 522-6771 / 6734 / 4773 TOYOTA DASMARIÑAS CAVITE, Salitran II, Aguinaldo Highway, Dasmariñas, Cavite (046) 850-2597 / (02) 529-8115 (trunk line) TOYOTA DAVAO CITY, INC., Km. 6 Lanang, Davao City (082) 234-0998 / (082) 234-2994 / (082) 234-8640 TOYOTA ILOILO CITY, INC., Gran Plaza Subd., Jaro, Iloilo City (033) 320-6115 to 19 TOYOTA MAKATI INC., Ayala cor. Metropolitan Avenues, Makati City 897-3333 TOYOTA MANILA BAY CORP., Roxas Boulevard cor. EDSA Extension, Pasay City 832-3408 to 10 / 832-3432 to 34 / 832-3384 / 832-3437 TOYOTA MARIKINA SERVICE STATION, Brgy. Sto. Niño, Sumulong Highway cor. Toyota Ave., Marikina City 682-9701 to 03 TOYOTA OTIS, INC., 1770 Paz M. Guazon St., Paco, Manila 564-1811 to 20 TOYOTA PASONG TAMO, INC., 2292 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City 893-8084 TOYOTA QUEZON AVENUE, INC., 726 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City 712-5001 to 06 TOYOTA SHAW, INC., 309 Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City 532-4132 / 532-6428 / 534-3009 (telefax) TOYOTA SHAW-ORTIGAS, 124 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Bo. Ugong, Pasig City 671-9854 to 64 / 671-9460

TOYOTA

Tips in buying home fitness machines



BUYING home fitness equipment can be one of the best investments you can make for your health.

You can fit exercise into your busy schedule and use the equipment even when the weather is bad. The whole family can also get fit together.

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

However, if you buy on impulse, home fitness machines can turn into expensive dust-collectors. Here are tips from Idea, the Association of Fitness Professionals, to help make you a smart buyer:

Match the machine to your needs.

If you enjoy walking, a treadmill will suit you better than a stationary bike, even if it is much cheaper.

That is why garage sales often have cross-country skiing machines on offer. Unless people live in Nordic countries, how many really know how to enjoy cross-country skiing?

Consider the space you have.

Take actual measurements instead of "I think it will fit in the family room." There are space-saving or portable equipment suitable for a small house. A stepper or stationary bike, for example, takes up less room than a treadmill. But there are also foldable home treadmills.

Put safety first.

Unless you hire a personal trainer, you are going to exercise without supervision so safety is an important issue. Free weight stations like a bench press should have safety racks in case the barbell falls.

Motorized treadmills should have accessible emergency stop buttons. The machine should place your body where it is protected from moving parts when you are using it. If buying a multi-gym, try all the stations and imagine all possible safety scenarios.

Think of physical limitations.

If you have a knee injury or a bad back, get special advice from a sports medicine doctor or a fitness professional before buying the latest fitness gadget.

Machine should be versatile, flexible.

Can it handle different body types? Can a man and woman use it equally well? Take note if your family is also going to be using the machine. Does it offer different levels of challenge? The machine should be able to still present you with a challenge when your skills and stamina improve.

Take a closer look.

Examine the machine physically. It should look and feel sturdy, not flimsy, with a smooth finish and clean welding. Upholstery must be firm and well-stitched.

If making an expensive purchase, try to talk to people who have used the equipment for a few years and see how their machines are holding up.

Avoid fast or sight-unseen purchases.

Do not buy fitness equipment you have not tried or tried only briefly. Gregory Florez, personal training consultant for Idea, says, "Almost any treadmill feels fine during the first few minutes. Only when doing a longer workout will you notice things like excessive vibration and noise. For cardio machines, spend at least 20 minutes trying different programs. For strength equipment, do a set of 10 repetitions."

Reliable fitness companies will deliver a demonstration model for you to try at home for several days or invite you to their showroom for a 30- to 40-minute workout.

Do not buy equipment from a dealer who lets you try their machine for just a few minutes. They may not want you to discover their product's shortcomings.

Weigh price versus quality.

A whole range of fitness machines is available in the Philippines, from cheap to midrange and top-of-the-line expensive. As with any product, you get what you pay for. The only thing going for the cheaper models is the price. Buy the best your budget can afford.

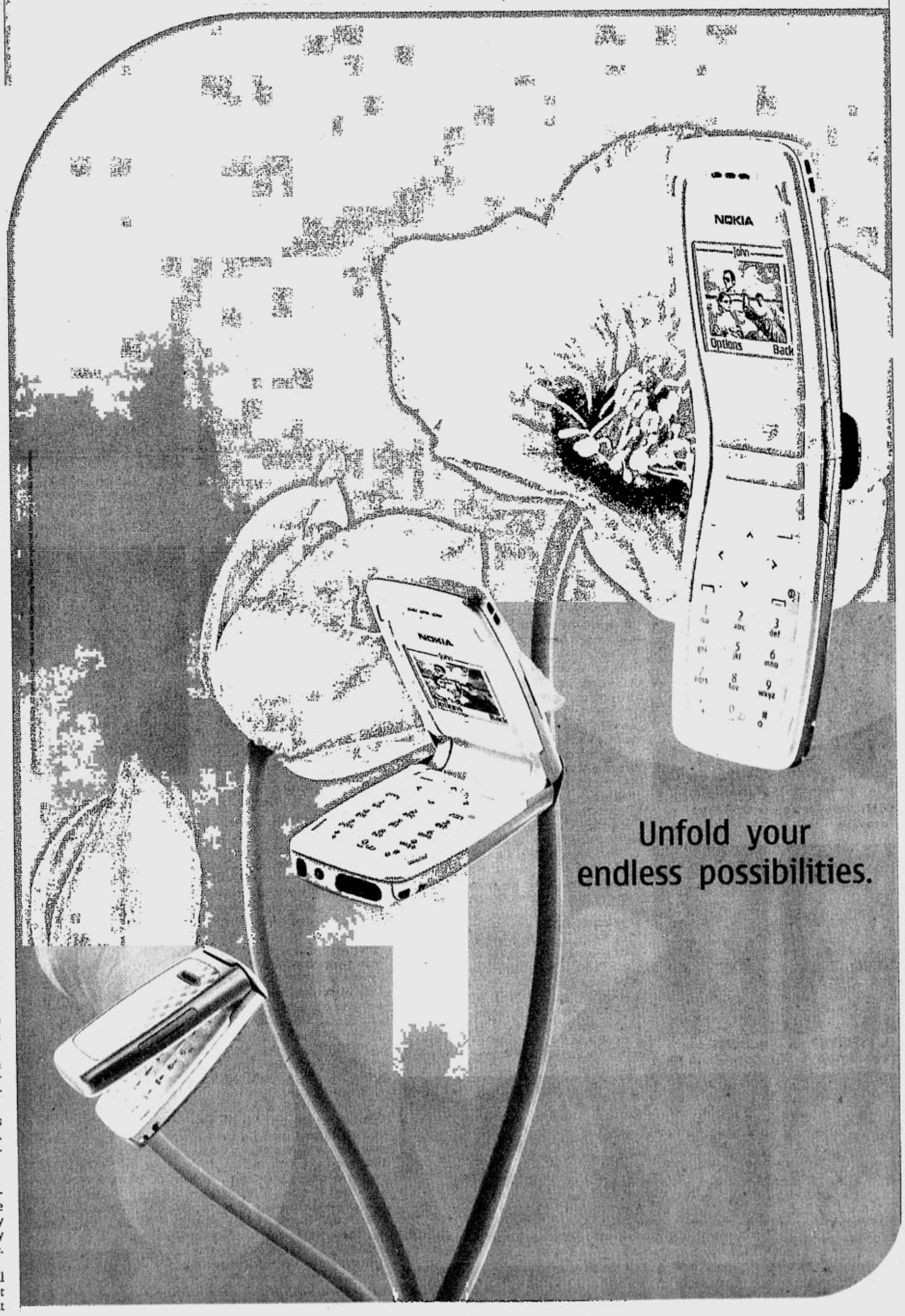
One woman I know computed the cost of all the cheap fitness machines she has bought through the years and realized that, for that amount, she could have bought not just one but two top-of-the-line treadmills.

Fitness equipment with computerized consoles are the most expensive but offer motivational information like heart rate, elapsed time, total calories burned, speed (km/hr on treadmills, floors per minute on steppers, revolution per minute on bikes). They can automatically control resistance to make your workout harder

TIPS/ C3

www.nokia.com.ph

NOKIA
CONNECTING PEOPLE



Unfold your endless possibilities.

Designed with the functions you need and the form you want, the new Nokia 2650, the latest fold phone from Nokia, lets you move on to the next level. Visit your Authorized Nokia Dealers and check out the surprisingly affordable Nokia 2650!

• Stylish Elegant Fold Design and Snap Open Hinge • Discreet, Flashing Edge Light Alarms • Snag-free Internal Antenna Design • Color Display • MMS • Java Games • Polyphonic Ringing Tones

NOKIA 2650
Realize Your Potential

SUPER close pals: book enthusiast Girlie Rodis, PR maven Susan Joven, brilliant businesswoman Virgie Ramos, Westin Philippine Plaza's Rose Libongco, and Cabalen's Maritel Nievera

STORES Specialists Inc. EVP-GM Anton Tantoco Huang with Visions & Expressions' smart Ginggay de la Merced

THE GLAM SET: Cinderella's Therese Santos, working socialite Agnes Huibonhoa, *moi*, and hostess with the mostest Ching Cruz

Rip-roaring party celebrates dazzling lives

POPULAR TWOSOME: Attractive Carol Sy and her husband, SM heir Hans Sy

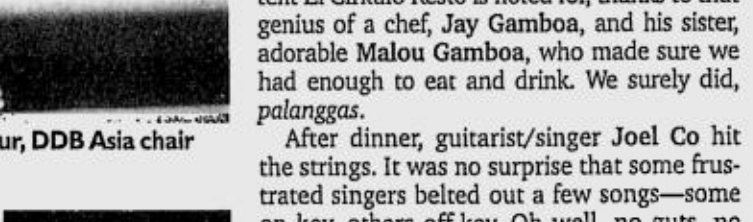
FOREIGN Affairs Secretary Alberto Romulo with wife, Lovely Tecson R.

GENTLEMAN of the hour, DDB Asia chair Aaron Lau

FIL-ESTATE'S Peng Perez de Tagle

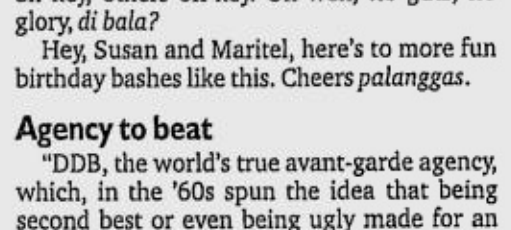
MCDONALD'S taipan, George Yang

SEN. Francis Pangilinan



ED Tamayo of AdVerbum with Afin Bautista and Mike Enriquez, both of GMA 7

GLAM gal Ces Drilon with Richard Proctor, DDB Asia CEO, and UA&P's Bernie Villegas



GRAHAM Coates of Robinson's Retail Group with witty Robina Gokongwei-Pe

WHEN super close pals set aside one big day to celebrate jointly their dazzling lives, you can expect a fun, rip-roaring time, *palanggas*. And that's exactly what we all had.

Two super best friends, mega restaurateur **Maritel Nievera-Shani** of the popular, always consistent Cabalen chain; and our very own super wonder woman, PR personality **Susan Joven**, president of Visions & Expressions, had a fantastic, fun joint birthday celebration at everyone's favorite restaurant, the Cirkulo, with close pals and business associates.

Both gals usually try to forget their birthdays for one reason or another, but this year was an exception. Most members of their eating gang insisted "you both better have a joint party this time." Well, dahlings, they did.

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen on Kodak Max

The gang came in full hungry force, including Sen. **Kiko Pangilinan**; a radiant **Loren Legarda**; **SP Sumulong** and wife **Annette**; popular couple, restaurateur **Rikki Dee**, with wife **Beng**, one of Manila's best-dressed; our town's in demand new guards, **Sander** and **Mons Tantoco**; my favorite pepperoni, fun **Pepper Teehankee**; and Press Undersecretary **Robert Manan-quil**. Foreign Secretary **Alberto Romulo** and his lovely wife, **Lovely Tecson R.**, dashed in and stayed for a bit.

Letting it all hang out and having a great time away from their corporate environment were SSI EVP-GM **Anton T. Huang**; Ayala's **Winnie Nazareth**, **Rowena Tomeldan** and **Cristy Comia**; and brilliant gentleman for all seasons, **Hans Sy**.

Late arrivals were my boss, **Chelo Formoso**, and *moi*. Both of us couldn't get enough of the yum-yummy phyllo pastry triangles with spinach, blue cheese and pine nuts, one of several apéritifs; not to mention the to-die-for buffet dinner. Paella Cirkulo—chorizo, duck and pork tenderloin in saffron seasoned rice; Mero à la Navarro—oven-roasted Chilean sea bass wrapped in *jamon serrano* with balsamic vinegar syrup; and slow-roasted US Beef Belly—garlic and black pepper crust, with portobella mushrooms and balsamic shallots that are among the superb selections the always consistent El Cirkulo Resto is noted for, thanks to that genius of a chef, **Jay Gamboa**, and his sister, adorable **Malou Gamboa**, who made sure we had enough to eat and drink. We surely did, *palanggas*.

After dinner, guitarist/singer **Joel Co** hit the strings. It was no surprise that some frustrated singers belted out a few songs—some on key, others off-key. Oh well, no guts, no glory, *di bala?*

Hey, Susan and Maritel, here's to more fun birthday bashes like this. Cheers *palanggas*.

Agency to beat

"DDB, the world's true avant-garde agency, which, in the '60s spun the idea that being second best or even being ugly made for an edgy campaign (think Avis' all-time tagline winner, "We try harder") has found itself positioned to become the agency to beat this side of the world again."

How's that for the opening of an invite I received, *palanggas*. So there I was at the packed Mandarin Captain's Bar watching that hot chair of DDB Asia, **Aaron Lau**, being appointed CEO of the Asia region, which, I was told, was one of Aaron's favorite areas of responsibility.

Expanding DDB Worldwide's integrated services and operations in Asia was the topic du jour. Appropriately enough, the heavyweight gang of Cosmo Manille's captains of industries were treated to great sounds, excellent wines and a buffet with dishes from the East and West symbolizing the fusion of DDB Worldwide. It has spread to almost all the seven continents and covers even the Slovak Republic, would you believe?

Host TV glam gal **Ces Drilon** introduced young DDB Philippines chair **Lito de Joya** and entrepreneur **Gil Chua** that started the ball rolling. We listened to a fearless forecast of things to come in 2005.

University of Asia & the Pacific's **Bernardo Villegas**, the prophet of boom, gave an optimistic business picture but also warned business leaders "to think outside the political box to achieve progress for all." International geomancer **Joseph Chau** happily told us "that now being the year of the monkey, a sixth wave of prosperity is in store for this country."

Après that, it was time to really party with the now-band Parliament Syndicate taking center stage, getting those hard-core business personalities to rock the floor, dahlings.

As we sipped the excellent Cabernet, I bumped into hotshot **Polly Nazareno**, prexy of PLDT/Smart; man for all seasons, MTV's **Francis Lumen**; business entrepreneur **Philip Lhuiller**; media man **Mike Enriquez**; and Cocktales man **Vic Agustin**, plus lots of shiny, cool personas like them.

Who says big boys don't know how to have real fun? Think again, buddy.

Absolute fun

Everyone agreed, *palanggas*, that it was a smashing night of partying when Absolut vodka, famous for affairs of fashion and art, presented "Absolut label—the country collection," featuring 10 extraordinarily exciting pieces designed by artists from all over the world.

Being the in place for launches, fashion shows and what have you, the Ayala Museum was the venue for the unveiling of the newest fashion project of Absolut—colorful eyecatching T-shirts by top designers from France, Turkey, Sweden, Spain, Greece, Poland, Brazil, Russia, Germany and Argentina.

In the last 18 years, Absolut has helped fashion designers from **Gianni Versace** to **Jean Paul Gaultier**. The swinging partnership between the popular Swedish vodka brand and fashionistas has been showcased in media advertising, as well as in a yearly fashion calendar featuring up-and-coming designers, proudly presenting the Absolut label, natch!

"I cannot describe the collection as anything less than extraordinarily exciting. The designers have really outdone themselves and managed to portray the creativity of Absolut brand from an Absolut perspective, (putting) an element of their own country into the design... this is the first time we have ever produced a limited edition of designs for Absolut," said a *très* pleased **Michael Persson**, market communications director of the Absolut Company in Stockholm, no less, *palanggas*. This must-have limited edition collection has 150 T-shirts from each designer.

Brilliant stylist **Michael Salientes**, together with equally creative director **Ariel Lozada**, made sure that the Absolut label's country collection had everyone wanting to see more. We did.

Needless to say, vivacious **Annie Ringor** of Bridges@com, Creative Ideas and Strategies spent the entire evening looking pleased as punch, dahlings.

BIRTHDAY gals: PR wonder woman Susan Joven and mega restaurateur Maritel Nievera celebrate another beautiful year.

WORLD travelers and successful entrepreneurs, Tina Maristela Ocampo and Ricco Ocampo

NO LOVE affair here: good looking international businessman Uli Behringer and Ayala's pretty Winnie Nazareth

MEGA achiever Dori Shani with Ayala Land's Cristy Comia

CIVIC-ORIENTED ladies Agnes Huibonhua and Fe Rodriguez

"WE loved all the T-shirts," said Shu Uemura's Tina Tinio and best-dressed gal Wendy Puyat-Hotung.

ABSOLUTELY Absolut followers: Martin Tornberg, Christine Laman and Cheese Ledesma

MOVERS and shakers: Cool artist Kiko Escora with Johan Salen, Johan Egger and Drasko Markovic

Spirit joins friends in photo at his wake

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

JOHN Mert (JM) was only 23 when he met a fatal accident at the South Luzon Expressway in August on his way home to Ayala Alabang.

During his wake, he appeared clearly to his half brother, Joshenn, 10, to whom he was very close. "I saw him standing at the corner of the funeral chapel where his body lay. He was wearing a gray shirt," said Joshenn.

I asked Joshenn if his dead brother, JM, said anything to him. He nodded yes. "He told me to take care of our Mom."

Since then, the young Joshenn could see and talk to his brother JM every day, as if he never died. For him, it was a natural and ordinary thing.

On the second day of JM's death, during Mass at the funeral parlor, Joshenn saw his elder brother, this time wearing a white shirt.

Hello, not goodbye

On the third day, at the wake, Joshenn saw his dead brother kissing his mother and several other relatives. It was more like greeting them than saying goodbye.

When JM's friends came to the wake, pictures were taken. In one of the pictures, JM could be seen sitting with them.

That was when the mother, Gigi, decided to seek my help to explain what's happening to her young son Joshenn, and what she should do about it.

Elvie Flores of the American Academy of Family Medicine, whose group invited me several times to lecture on alternative healing, arranged a meeting between me and her niece, Gigi the mother of Joshenn and JM.

During lunch in November at the Tower Club in Makati, I learned more fascinating details of the interactions between Joshenn and his departed brother JM. Present during that meeting were Gigi, Elvie Flores, Gigi's mother Fe, and four of Gigi's six children. Oops, excuse me, five of six!

No empty chair

Joshenn said his dead brother JM was also there seated on the empty chair to his right. I was seated to Joshenn's left.

I asked how JM looked, and Joshenn replied: "He is seated beside me with his two hands on his stomach. He is wearing a white shirt." That's how JM usually sat on a chair.

When the picture at the wake showed JM's face, his friends at first didn't believe he was there with them. They asked Joshenn to ask JM if there's any message for them. Joshenn said JM told him to tell one of his friends "to brush your teeth."

Everybody laughed because JM used to tell that to his friend when he was alive. Of course, Joshenn never knew about that because he never went with the group. The friends were convinced JM was really with them.

During lunch, JM told Joshenn their grandfather was also in that picture. We asked Joshenn to ask JM to show where the grandfather was. Joshenn got the picture from me, brought it in front of the empty chair on his right, as if showing it to somebody, and then pointed to a spot beside JM in the picture.

When I looked at it, that's when I saw another head, looking sideways. This other phantom figure might not be visible on the printed reproduction of the picture, but it was quite clear in the original when you concentrated on it.

Earning his wings

On the first day of the wake, JM told Joshenn to tell everybody he needed their prayers to earn his wings. So they prayed for him every day. The next day, Joshenn saw his brother wearing white and with large wings like an angel. In succeeding days, he saw him flying in the air. He had earned his wings!

I took the opportunity to ask JM, through Joshenn, a question that had been bugging me for years. Why do some people see angels without wings and others with wings? What's the difference?

Joshenn leaned to his right and whispered my question to his brother whom he alone could see.

"*Kuya* says it depends on the mind of the individual," Joshenn said. That made a lot of sense to me, I said. Those who felt they ought to have wings grew wings.

I explained to the group that in the astral plane or in the spirit world our thoughts became realities. So if they thought angels should have wings, they would have wings.

Before we parted, I asked Gigi if I could use the photo she gave me in a book on spirit photos that I was writing. She told Joshenn, "Ask him if he will allow it." After Joshenn asked his brother, he said, "Brother says it's okay. You may use the photo in your book."

When we were walking to the elevator, several of us noticed that Joshenn's right hand was extended further away from him, as if somebody was holding it. Elvie whispered to my ear. "Look, JM is holding Joshenn's hand!"

Address letters to this column to 308 Prince Plaza I, 106 Legazpi St., Legazpi Village, Makati. Call 8107245 or 8926806. E-mail jlicauco@edsamail.com.ph. Visit http://jlicauco.shorturl.com. Listen to my dzMM radio program 7-8 p.m., every Sunday

Metrowalk International Bazaar
To hit it BIG
On December 17 – 20 from 10am to 8pm
With exceptional products on display
Truly different from all others

* Located along Meralco Ave. corner Ortigas right beside MC Home Depot
* Fully air conditioned 2nd Floor with 120 booths
* FREE PARKING with 2,000 parking spaces
* Reputable restaurants on the ground floor
* 10,000 complimentary tickets to be given to elite bazaar shoppers
* Guaranteed heavy customer traffic and volume sales
* Print advertisement in 3 leading newspapers on all days of the event plus streamers and flyers

Call Mina 0918-9231469
Tels: 9252467
9258435

Tips in buying home fitness machines

From page C1

or easier.

Florez suggests trying the best and most expensive equipment first even if you can't afford it so you know what quality features to look for. Then, you will know what features you are willing to give up when you try lower priced models.

Think about after-sales service.

Buying from a local distributor of "brand name" fitness equipment is more reliable in the long run because you can have warranties (one to two years) and a service team with technical know-how and replacement parts should anything go wrong. However, do make sure the company or store you buy from is really committed to after-sales service and is not just giving you lip service.

If you are buying an expensive piece of fitness equipment like a treadmill, ask to meet the service team. You may discover that the "team" does not exist or consists of one solitary part-time technician whose real job is to fix television.

Be careful when buying electronic/computerized fitness equipment abroad. It may be cheaper than buying from a local distributor but you will be helpless if something goes wrong.

Even if you can bring in the spare parts, you will have a hard time finding a technician specifically trained for that machine. You may also need a gigantic transformer because equipment purchased abroad often uses 110 volts instead of our standard 220. This factor alone can shorten the life of your machine.

Visit www.tinajuanfitness.info

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Lateral push-up

THIS advance exercise uses your own body weight as resistance to strengthen and firm up the chest, triceps (back of the arms) as well as abs and waist.

Equipment:

Exercise mat.

Exercise technique:

1. Lie sideways on a mat with your legs together in alignment with your shoulders, head and neck.

2. Place the top hand on the mat in front of your chest with fingers facing your head. Wrap your other arm around your waist. Hold your neck in line with your spine.

3. Contract your chest and press down into the mat to push up laterally.

4. Slowly return to starting position.

5. Do the desired number of repetitions then repeat on the other side.

Performance tips:

1. This is an advance exercise and should not be attempted by beginners.

2. Keep your neck lengthened and pull your shoulders away from your ears.

3. There is no need to straighten the working arm fully to reap the benefits of this exercise, although people who have the strength in their chest/triceps plus enough flexibility in the sides of the body will be able to do so.

4. This exercise can be stressful on the wrists. After finishing the desired repetitions, flip your wrists up and down and make alternating circles to relieve the pressure.

Repetitions:

Do five to 10 repetitions per side.

MEDICard

Take Charge Doc!

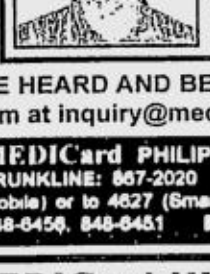
Dr. Nicky S. Montoya

Take Charge Doc! is your weekly question and answer guide on general health issues and illnesses. MEDICard's Medical Director, Dr. Nicky Montoya answers questions on health through the assistance and expertise of MEDICard's network of accredited specialists. And in a common thrust with the campaigns of the government, Take Charge Doc! parallels its features on the Calendar of Health Events of the Department of Health.

What symptoms differentiate a person under the influence of illegal drugs, like cocaine or ecstasy, from a person intoxicated by alcohol?

A person under the influence of alcohol is easier to be identified than that of a cocaine, ecstasy or a shabu user. Cocaine or shabu users can seemingly be normal in their day to day routine, but as their usage worsens, carelessness sets in and their social and working habits become affected. Tardiness, missed deadlines, unexplained absences and changes in attitudes are also observed. Irritability over trivial matters is common, along with mood swings and untidiness. Cocaine, shabu and ecstasy users were also observed to be more aggressive and flirtatious towards the opposite sex. A "Hero Complex" was also noted among heavy users.

On the other hand, alcohol is a central nervous system (CNS) depressant. Intoxication can cause incoordination, tremors, ataxia (unsteady or shaky movements) confusion, stupor, coma and even death at higher blood alcohol levels. Chronic alcohol use produces CNS dependence, thus during withdrawal stage, tremors, jitters, seizures can occur. More often one encounters a "poly", a person who mixes alcohol and drug use.

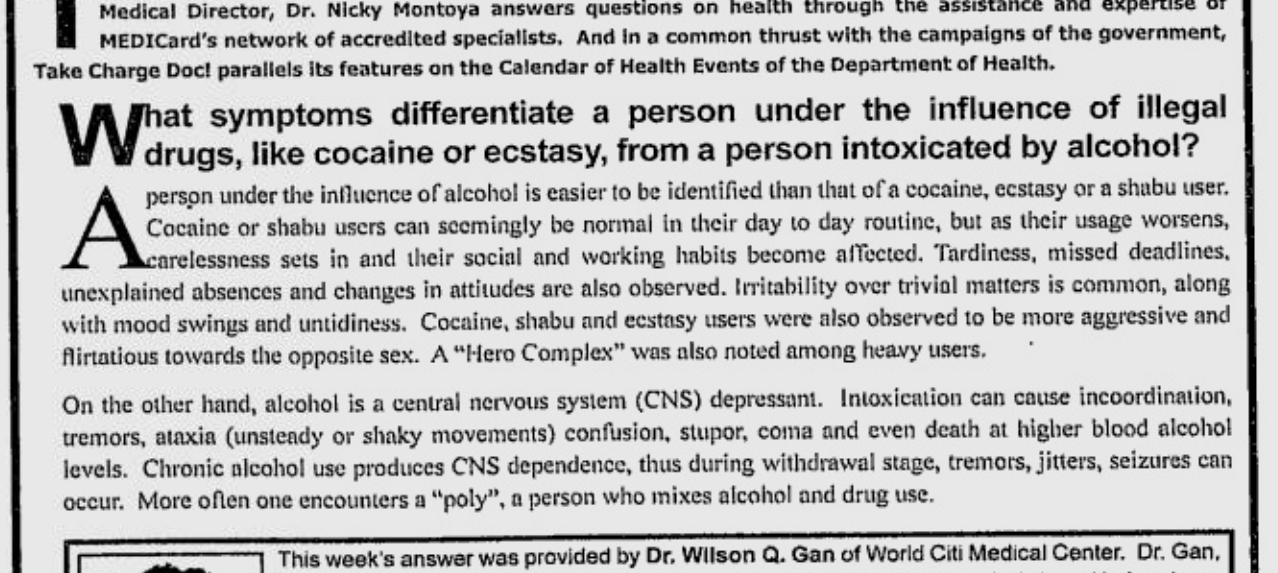


This week's answer was provided by **Dr. Wilson Q. Gan** of World Citi Medical Center. Dr. Gan, an FEU-NRMF batch 1989 Medicine graduate, specializes in Internal Medicine. He has been an accredited provider of MEDICard since early 2001. He is affiliated with the Philippine Medical and Quezon City Medical Associations and is also involved into drug and alcohol counseling for the Christ Commission Fellowship, Precious Hope Ministry. For consultations, members may visit him at Room 207, The World Citi Medical Center, from Mondays to Saturdays, 10 AM to 5 in the afternoon.

BE HEARD AND BE READ. Write to DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA (c/o *TAKE CHARGE DOC!*) or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com for inquiries on health matters.

MEDICard PHILIPPINES, INC.: 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. H.V. dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City 1227
TRUNKLINE: 867-2020 · FAX NO.: 894-5720; 810-3855 TEXT: Key in MEDICARD and send to 2344 (Globe and Touch Mobile) or to 4627 (Smart and Talk 'N' Text) INDIVIDUAL/FAMILY SALES: 818-2161 CORPORATE SALES: 848-6452; 848-6456, 848-6451 E-MAIL: inquiry@medicardphils.com; feedback@medicardphils.com WEBSITE: www.medicardphils.com

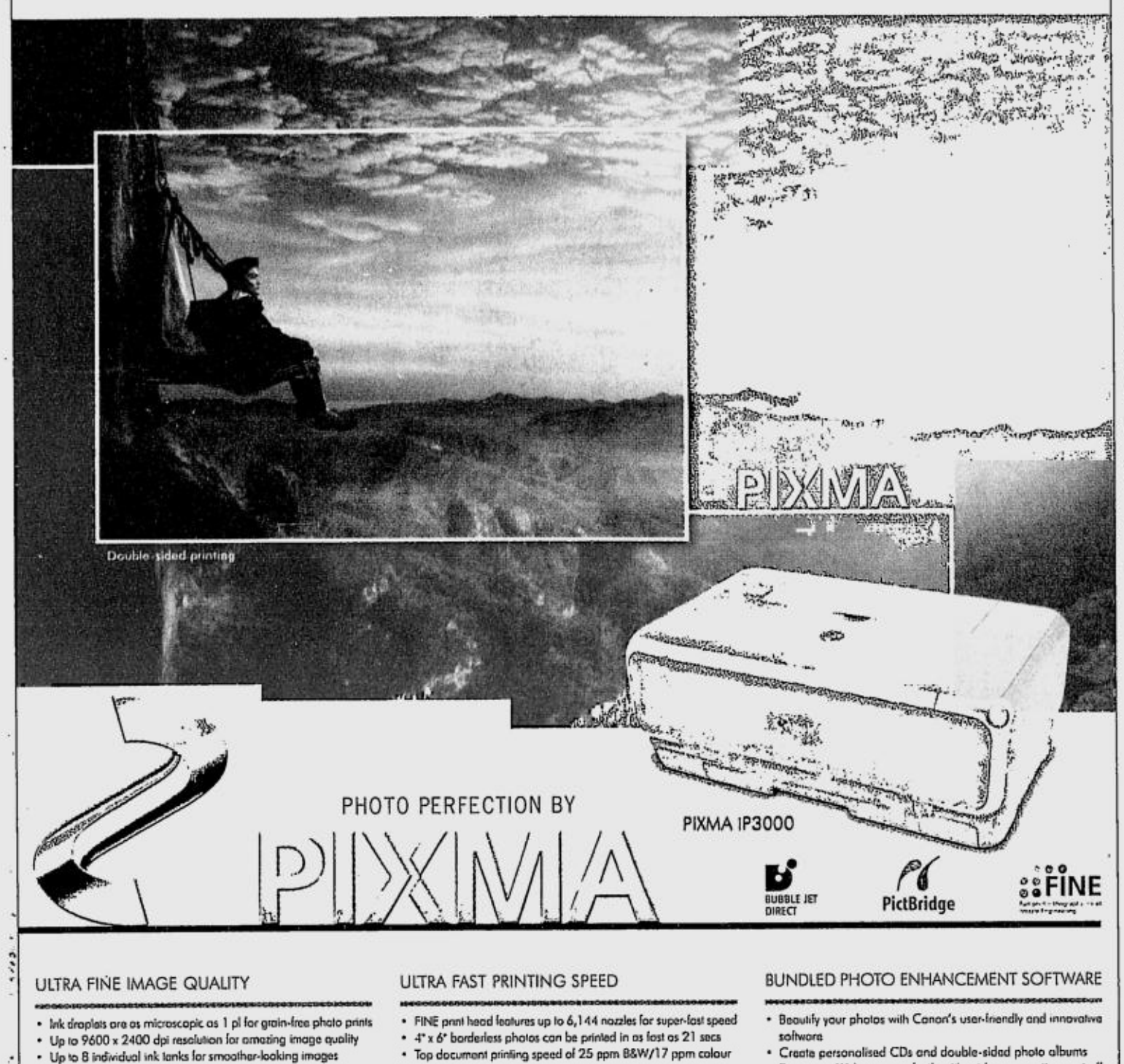
MEDICard-HYATT Signing



HYATT HOTEL AND CASINO MANILA, the latest 5-star deluxe and most contemporary hotel in the heart of Manila, recently signed its corporate healthcare program with MEDICard. Seated (L-R) are Erwin Policar (Hyatt Dir. of Finance), Dr. Nicanor Montoya (MEDICard Pres.) Gottfried Bogensperger (Hyatt GM), Luis Montoya (MEDICard EVP & GM) and Emma Cruz (Hyatt Dir. of HR). Standing (L-R) are MEDICard's Voltaire Victoria (Mktg. & Sales Mngr.) and Countess Kathreen Medina (Mktg. Asst.) with Maritess Antonio (Account Mngr.) and Hyatt's Mayit Zabala (Country Mngr.), Christine Campita (Personnel Mngr.), Leah Bondoc (Personnel Officer) and Sabrina Azcarate (Training Mngr.).

Canon

PERFECT MOMENTS SHOULD BE REPRODUCED PERFECTLY.



ULTRA FINE IMAGE QUALITY
- Ink droplets are as microscopic as 1 pl for grain-free photo prints
- Up to 9600 x 2400 dpi resolution for amazing image quality
- Up to 8 individual ink tanks for smoother-looking images
- Achieve more vivid and realistic-looking photos than ever before

ULTRA FAST PRINTING SPEED
- FINE print head features up to 6,144 nozzles for super-fast speed
- 4" x 6" borderless photos can be printed in as fast as 21 secs
- Top document printing speed of 25 ppm B&W/17 ppm colour

BUNDLED PHOTO ENHANCEMENT SOFTWARE
- Beautify your photos with Canon's user-friendly and innovative software
- Create personalised CDs and double-sided photo albums
- Print every Web page perfectly without having portions cut off

iP1000	iP1500	iP2000	iP3000	iP4000	iP5000	iP6000D	iP8500
• 4800 x 1200 dpi/5 pl • 14 ppm B&W/ 11 ppm colour • 4" x 6" borderless prints in approx. 55 sec • Borderless printing up to 5" x 7"	• 4800 x 1200 dpi/2 pl • 18 ppm B&W/ 13 ppm colour • 4" x 6" borderless prints in approx. 58 sec • Borderless A4-size printing	• 4800 x 1200 dpi/2 pl • 20 ppm B&W/ 14 ppm colour • 4" x 6" borderless prints in approx. 50 sec • PictBridge/Bubble Jet Direct printing	• 4800 x 1200 dpi/2 pl • 22 ppm B&W/ 15 ppm colour • 4" x 6" borderless prints in approx. 36 sec • Cost-saving individual ink tanks	• 4800 x 1200 dpi/2 pl • 25 ppm B&W/ 17 ppm colour • 4" x 6" borderless prints in approx. 36 sec • ContrastPLUS 5-colour ink system	• 9600 x 2400 dpi/1 pl • 25 ppm B&W/ 17 ppm colour • 4" x 6" borderless prints in approx. 36 sec • ContrastPLUS 5-colour ink system	• 4800 x 1200 dpi/2pl • 2.5-inch colour viewer • Camera Direct/ Card Direct/ Mobile phone printing • 6-colour printing with individual ink tanks	• 4800 x 2400 dpi/2pl • 17 ppm B&W/ 15 ppm colour • 4" x 6" borderless prints in approx. 21 sec • ChromaPLUS 8-colour ink system

South & Southeast Asia Regional Headquarters:
Canon Singapore Pte Ltd 1 HarbourFront Avenue, #04-01, Keppel Bay Tower, Singapore 098632 www.canon-asia.com
Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc. 2F Marvin Plaza, 2153 Don Chino Roces Avenue, cor. V.A. Rufino St., Makati City • Tels.: 812-6047 / 812-6076 to 79 / 892-6449 • Fax 810-9797
E-mail address: info@canon.com.ph • www.canon.com.ph

Moderation is the best diet

DIET fads are fashionable for a moment, but what happens afterward?

Most diet fads deprive the body of basic nutrients. Whether it's carbohydrate, protein or fat, there is a deprivation of sorts. Most nutritionists and dietitians are against dieting simply because it's fashionable.

The best diet, when all is said and done, is moderation though the term is subject to personal interpretation. It can mean different things to different people with different needs.

Let's take a look at basic nutrients to appreciate them better.

Meat—Though a rich source of iron, meat can make people eat twice the protein the body needs. Too much protein can damage the kidney and liver.

Red meat, if not lean, is high in saturated fat and has been linked to heart disease and cancer.

Don't: Overdo meat consumption. Do: Indulge if you must on your favorite roast beef, steak or cheeseburger but only twice a month.

Fish—There is fish and there is fish. But only fish like the humble sardine can actually help your heart. Rich in Omega-3, it is best for health maintenance. Do: Buy more fish like sardines, tuna, mackerel, cod. Don't: Overcook your fish, or your food, for that matter, to preserve nutrients.

Vegetables—Broccoli and cauliflower are nutrient-rich vegetables with antioxidants to boost the immune system. Sprouts—mongo, alfalfa, Brussel—are good for the body. Do: Think green as often as you can. Have a serving of veggies first before meat or carbohydrates.

Soybean has plant estrogens called isoflavones that can help lower blood lipid levels, relieve symptoms of menopause and lower risk of hormone-related cancers. Do: Eat tofu. If you don't like it, get fresh soybean and steam the "edamame." Good snack food. Or, drink soy milk every day.

Juices—If you don't like to eat veggies, consider juicing up. A glass of tomato juice daily is enough to get you started.

Soups—For a healthier family meal, have soups, stews and sauces to include a variety of vegetables. Do: Look for interesting ways to add veggies to your diet.

Here is the recipe for my popular barley soup:

1 c peeled raw barley pearls (Quaker brand available in supermarkets or organic brand at Healthy Options)
5 c water/chicken stock
1 can whole/crushed peeled tomatoes
2 tsp garlic
1 tsp onion
2 tsp fresh or dried basil
1 tsp dried or fresh oregano
3 tsp extra virgin olive oil
Salt and pepper to taste
¼ c chopped celery
¼ c chopped carrot
¼ c chopped Baguio beans
¼ c chopped broccoli/cauliflower
¼ c chopped potato
¼ c shredded/cooked chicken breast meat (optional)

Boil 1 whole chicken breast in low fire for 30 minutes. Once chicken stock is done, remove chicken breast and shred the meat. Add to vegetables as you sauté. Vegetables should only be half-cooked. Add barley to chicken stock. Boil in low fire for 1 hour. Add tomatoes, drained. Cook in low fire for 15 minutes until boiling. Add the vegetable mixture to the barley chicken stock. Throw in the basil and oregano. Cook for another 45 minutes to 1 hour in low fire. Upon serving, add 2 tsp of grated parmesan cheese (optional). Serve hot with french bread.

Carbohydrates—Your body needs carbs to maintain your energy level. While the most popular carbs in Western diets is potato, it is often served overdressed with gravy, sour cream, bacon, butter, etc. Do: Eat potato as simply as you can. The Asian staple, rice, is good for the health but only in moderation. Have only one cup per meal. If you are dieting, have half a cup.

Diet tip

Eat less, move more. Or eat fewer calories, burn more calories. Exercise three times a week.. Do: Eat smaller portions. Oversized portions lead to weight gain. Undersized portions lead to weight loss.

Beauty regimen

Frown less. Repeated raising and bunching of eyebrows will produce unwelcome lines. Try putting scotch tape on your forehead and practice not frowning for an hour. Each time you forget, the tape will remind you to stay cool, calm and collected.

Affirmation

"I am my brightest smile because the Universe smiles at me."

Love and light!

SKIN BLEMISHES? ALL GONE WITH IPL!

The favorite skin treatment of the stars is now within your reach!

This is it! The BIGGEST offer you've been waiting for! Get 40% OFF on IPL from December 6 to 31, 2004

It's what your skin is looking for! The IPL Photorejuvenation Treatment from Facial Care Centre will banish your bothersome blemishes to reveal a clearer skin tone. It is proven effective in erasing your freckles, age spots and spider veins on anywhere that skin imperfections show. You, too, can be among the many women who enjoy its excellent results and experience the beauty of having blemish-free skin.

Don't miss this fantastic skincare treat only from Facial Care Centre. IPL, it really works!

Facial care centre

CALL 892-SKIN (7546) Where Beautiful Skin Happens
www.facialcarecentre.com.ph

MAKATI 15/F GT Tower | ORTIGAS 36/F Robinsons Equitable Tower | QUEZON CITY 3/F Cedar Exec. Bldg. | BINONDO Unit 0-1 City Plaza Tower | ALABANG 3/F Citibank-Frabelle Bldg. | SHAW 2/F Sunshine Square Plaza | CONGRESSIONAL 2/F Q Plaza Bldg. | PAMPANGA TEL: 961-3404 3/F Dan's Mktg. Bldg. | CEBU TEL: 233-7631 Unit 1203 Keppel Centre

Red Cross' Senator Richard Gordon and Rosa Rosal, with Dr. Vivian Gonzales and Al Gonzales, secretary general of STET-VIP's Volunteers

UPLB starts annual bloodletting

THE DUGONG Alay-Dugtong Buhay was launched at the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) in 1998 to help an employee with a kidney problem.

Lolita Dikitanan, an employee at the UPLB Office of Student Affairs, had a kidney problem that required weekly blood transfusions at UP-Philippine General Hospital in Manila.

Her situation prompted Dr. Vivian A. Gonzales, then UPLB dean of students, to start a bloodletting project through her Students' Transformation and Enrichment for Truth-Values Integration and Promotion (STET-VIP) program.

Dr. Armando Crisostomo, then PGH assistant director for health operations, sent his staff to UPLB for the first Dugong Alay-Dugtong Buhay bloodletting in 1998.

Now a civic welfare training service (CWTS) component of the National Service Training Program (NSTP), STET-VIP has more than 500 affiliate schools with 800,000 students. Starting this year, its volunteers will donate blood to the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) during the annual Dugong Alay-Dugtong Buhay Week, Dec. 5-12.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

LIFESTYLE

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback:
Inquirer life name/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Oasis of health and well-being

Text by Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by August dela Cruz

THE MEDICAL City has moved to its new home, a 1.5-ha property on Ortigas Avenue, Pasig City. And for Dr. Alfredo R.A. Bengzon, president and CEO, it's more than a transfer of address or physical makeover.

"This has been very much about organizational transformation, clarifying our vision and values and enlivening these in everything that we do," he says. "Upon this noble calling, we stake our claim as 'The Capital of Health,' the center of all that is new and true about health."

For 37 years now, The Medical City has provided health-care services to Filipinos, recognizing that the health and well-being of every individual contributes to national development.

"Even as we attend to the personal health needs of our patients, we are focused on the real prize—health as a fundamental good in defining life and its quality, and hence a potent force in pursuing social reform and achieving equitable development," says Dr. Bengzon.

GARDENS in and around the building complex provide a soothing environment.

Massive structure

Encompassing 100,000 sq m of floor space, the new P5.1-billion Medical City is composed of two towers joined by a podium and bridge ways. The 15-storiy nursing tower is fitted with 500 beds, and a future second tower will provide an additional 300 beds.

The 18 floors of the Medical Arts Tower house 277 doctors' clinics and selected commercial spaces. Within the six-floor podium are diagnostic and intervention facilities as well as support and administrative offices. The three-basement level parking facility accommodates over a thousand vehicles.

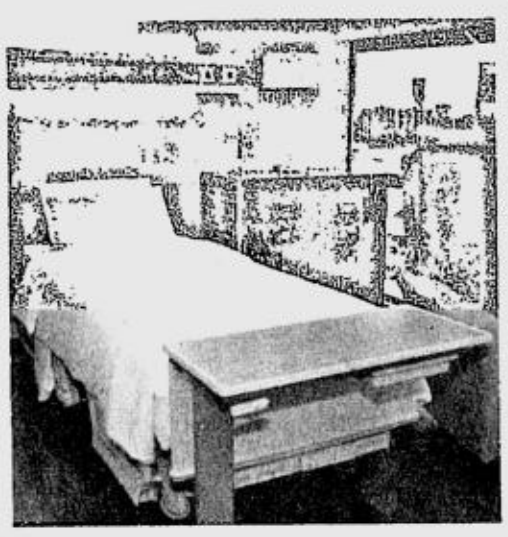
According to Dr. Augusto Sarmiento, chair, an advanced building management system operates as the brain of the complex and orchestrates a myriad of systems. It incorporates life safety features which are activated in case of fire, earthquake or other calamities.

Should a fire break out, for instance, fire doors would automatically shut off certain areas to prevent the spread of smoke and fire. Sealed areas of refuge that are smoke- and fire-proof would be made available for non-ambulant patients, pending their rescue using a pressurized protected elevator.

Zoned sprinkler systems would contain the spread of fire, while preventing unwarranted water damage to non-affected areas.

"The complex is built and equipped to withstand even the most severe natural or manmade disasters. Its structural design is 200 percent above the minimum Philippine Codes. Seismic joints have been employed to protect the building from collapse or other earthquake damage.

OASIS/ D3



THE ARCHITECTURAL design of the new Medical City on Ortigas Avenue, Pasig City, is contemporary yet welcoming.

A ROOM in the Presidential Suite

Medical City has a massive, state-of-the-heart new home on Ortigas Avenue in Pasig City

USA Vitamin Sale!
We deliver anywhere in the Philippines!
•GlutaBioC (the most effective skin whitener). 1,000mg: P45. •Melatonin: P6.
•CoQ10. 60mg: P22. •Spirulina. 500mg: P6.
•Hyaluronic Acid Anti-Wrinkle Pill: P50.
•Ginkgo: P7. •Glucosamine. 750mg: P12.
•Nat Vitamin E: P6. •Silymarin. 200mg: P8.
•Vitamin C. 500tabs: P750. •Lycopene: P9.
Unit 715 City & Land Mega Plaza
(behind Robinson's Galleria), Pasig City
•Tel 687-5023 •Cell: 0918-3461156

DAZZLING DECEMBER AT EDSA CENTRAL
CAROLS & CHEERS!
December 3, 8 and 15
Relive your Christmas memories with heart-warming carols flying through the air! Special guest choirs will serenade you with heavenly tunes. Stop by and listen. Who knows, you could win a special gift!
HO-HO-HO HERE'S SANTA!
December 10, 15 and 17
He knows who's naughty and who's nice and he's in EDSA Central! Bring your kids to see Santa Claus and catch him and his merry helpers strolling around the mall giving gifts and goodies to lucky kids (and even their mommies!) A perfect Christmas memory at EDSA Central!
CHRISTMAS REALLY IS MERRY AT EDSA CENTRAL!
BAZAAR BAZAAR
OUTDOOR SHOPS AND STALLS
The perfect answer to your Christmas shopping woes! Drop by our outdoor shops and stalls during the Christmas season. Who knows? You might find nice surprises and fanciful bargains for you and your loved ones!
FOOD CENTRAL
Great new restaurants offering sumptuous food choices await you and your family at the Food Central! Try Them all!
UNBEATABLE VALUE, PLEASANT SURPRISES!
EDSA CENTRAL
Greenfield District, Mandaluyong

Nasa lahi kasi namin...
BLOOD CLOT
leads to stroke, heart attack or sudden death. The risk increases if you have a strong FAMILY HISTORY or have:
• Diabetes • Hypertension
• Heart Disease • High Cholesterol
• Stroke • Stressful Lifestyle
Lumbrokinase
PLASMIN CAPSULES
The only dietary supplement that is proven to DISSOLVE BLOOD CLOTS
Add PLASMIN to your daily diet and experience:
• increase in physical energy
• reduction in blood pressure and chest pains
• reduction in blood sugar and cholesterol level
• improvement in breathing and speech
• reduction in numbness and dizziness
• recovery of sensation and function of hands and legs
Mag-PLASMIN na kayo ni Itay.. para walang bara!
HOW DOES PLASMIN WORK?
STEP 1 COLLAGENASE breaks the outer shell of the blood clot
STEP 2 and 3 PROFIBRINOLYSIN and FIBRINOLYSIN combine to dissolve the blood clot
PREVENTING STROKE HEART ATTACK SUDDEN DEATH
Available at all mercury drug & other leading drugstores. For inquiries about product and dealer promo, please call Hotline Nos. (02)8942932, (02)8942647 or 0915-6250944 or email plasmin_inquiry@yahoo.com.

SAY GOODBYE TO DARK SCAR FOREVER!
T(02) 411 8319
T(02) 411 3082
0917 787 7955

ARIVA
AUTOMATIC WATER HEATERS
Only PhP7,645.00
FREE INSTALLATION
* Built-In ELCB
Electronic Control Switch
Complete Fittings
* Optional
JETT
Since 1985
JETT WATER HEATER CO., INC.
Unit 3 & 5 Bona Condo, EDSA, Cubao, Quezon City
Trunklines: 723-00-32 to 37 & 724-59-07
Showroom & Service Centers Nationwide
BAGUIO (074) 619-1204
CEBU (032) 344-3344
DAVAO (082) 225-0915

GUSTO MO NA BANG LUMIPAD?
Call 751-8000 to apply.
HSBC The world's local bank
Issued by The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited

FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND

A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG

PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: Sometimes others think you're eccentric because you march to the beat of your own drummer. In turn, you are drawn to others who are characters, because you like unconventional, unusual things. You're often a late bloomer because it's hard to decide on a line of work. Increased solitude this year offers you an opportunity to learn something important.
Birthdate of: Ellen Burstyn, actress; Larry Bird, basketball player; Johnny Bench, baseball player.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a wonderful day to study philosophy, religion, politics or any kind of profound subject. You have a deep desire to learn more in order to become a better person.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Your ability to research today is fabulous! You can ferret out information from any source. Nothing will escape you if you decide to go after it.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Discusclose friends will be unusually intense . In addition to this, you might attract people who are determined to convince you of something.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Be bold about presenting your new ideas for improvements on the job. You know what you're talking about. You're practical and mechanical. Tell others what you think.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You might be romantically obsessed about somebody today. You can't get this person out of your mind. You could fall in love with somebody you know or somebody who is a remote hero quite beyond your reach.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Family discussions are powerful and intense today. Don't be talked into anything if you don't want to be. In turn, don't try to coerce others into agreeing with you. Live and let live.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You have unusually powerful verbal skills today. You can talk anybody into anything. You can teach, sell, persuade, influence, propagandize or cajole your way into or out of any situation.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You have excellent moneymaking ideas today. They are not at all far-fetched. Don't be afraid to share them with others; see what people think.

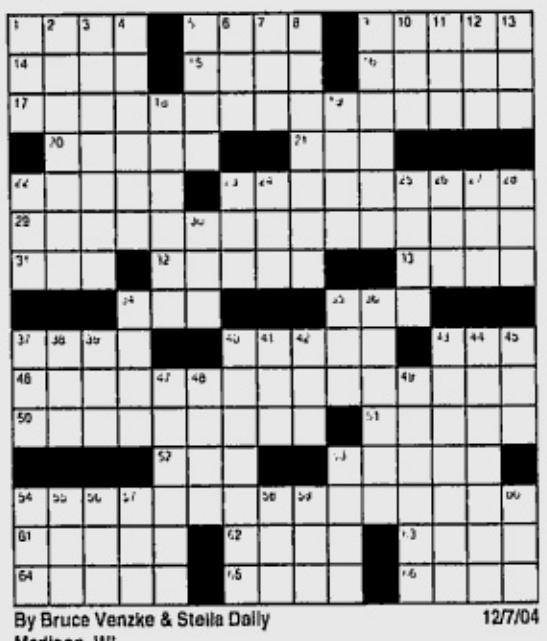
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You have X-ray vision today. You seem to see beneath the surface of things. (Once you've heard the truth, everything else is just cheap whiskey.)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): All kinds of secrets or backroom deals might take place today. You want to work behind the scenes. Expect to discover hidden facts and lost items.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You might be mesmerized by something a friend says to you today. It's as if it grips you by the throat. Powerful people amaze you now.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Do not cross parents, teachers, bosses or authority figures today. You are very powerful today, but others are too!

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Bruce Venzke & Stella Daily
Madison, WI
12/7/04

ACROSS
1 "__ the night before..."
5 Coarse file
9 Confuse
14 Oldsters' grp.
15 Villainous
16 Had the nerve
17 Start of a quip
20 Golfers' shouts
21 Bishopric
22 True up
23 Fish entree
29 Part 2 of quip
31 Dutch commune
32 Encourages in wrongdoing
33 Gaelic tongue
34 Pub. submissions
35 Either part of a fly?
37 Attendee's answer
40 Pants fold
43 Flatfoot
46 Part 3 of quip
50 Surveillance jobs
51 Decoy
52 Writer Beattie
53 Uproar
54 End of quip
61 Struck, old-style
62 Winter frost
63 Big name in building blocks
64 Yearned
65 Little wools
66 Genesis garden

DOWN
1 Skater Babilonia
2 Spoke evasively
3 Ornate wardrobe
4 Sprinkle
5 R.E. Lee's troops
6 5th or Lex.
7 Bro's sib
8 Blood fluids
9 Element of a total
10 Smidgen
11 Actress Joanne
12 Permit to
13 Asner and Sullivan
18 Meddlesome women
19 Light gas
22 Wonderment
23 Soap ingredient
24 Superlative ending
25 Koko's dagger
26 Royal pronoun
27 Some linemen: abbr.
28 Language suffix
30 Archaic: abbr.
34 Humbly patient
35 Russian chess master
36 Engraver's tool
37 Towel word
38 NYC summer hrs.
39 Sony rival
40 Having a potbelly
41 Ignited
42 Two in nine?
43 Collided and rebounded
44 Excess
45 For each
47 Brought up
48 Theater award
49 Rush headlong
53 Trees with needles
54 Small viper
55 # of Kubrick's movie?
56 Long, long time
57 AAA suggestion
58 __ pollol
59 Music genre
60 Male offspring

Monday's Puzzle Solved

S	O	L	I	D		K	E	E	N		L	A	C	E
A	N	I	T	A		E	R	N	O		A	L	A	S
S	T	E	E	L		B	O	O	N		R	O	D	S
H	O	U	R	G	L	A	S	S	F	I	G	U	R	E
				L	A	B			A	N	O	D	E	S
E	N	A	M	E	L		M	A	T	T				
A	I	D	A		A	M	O	S		E	S	S	E	N
C	L	O	C	K	W	O	R	K	O	R	A	N	G	E
H	F	S	S	E		D	A	S	H		R	A	G	S
				T	W	I	N		A	M	I	G	O	S
B	L	E	A	C	H			W	R	Y				
W	A	T	C	H	O	N	I	H	F	R	H	I	N	E
A	M	A	H		O	C	H	O		T	O	N	E	S
N	A	P	E		P	A	I	L		L	A	T	E	N
A	R	E	S		S	A	N	E		E	R	O	D	E

(C)2004 Tribune Media Services, Inc.
All rights reserved
12/7/04

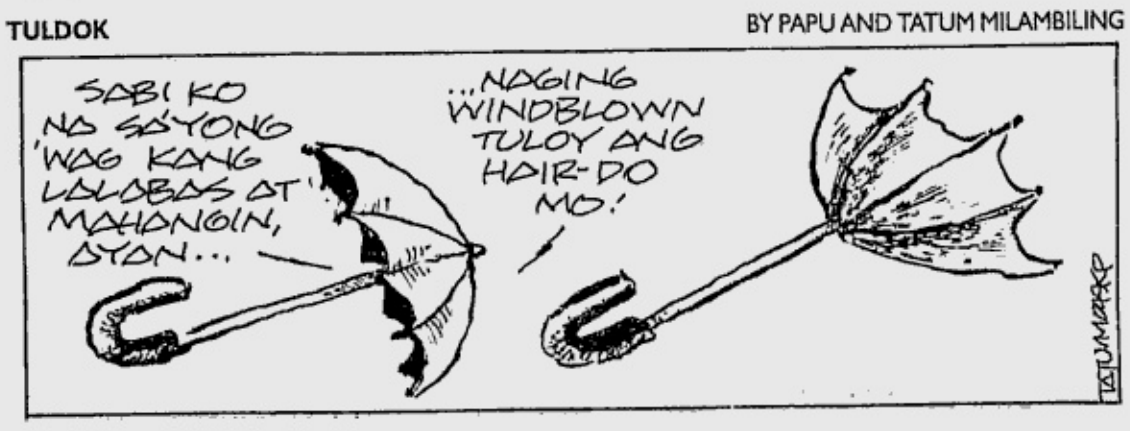
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

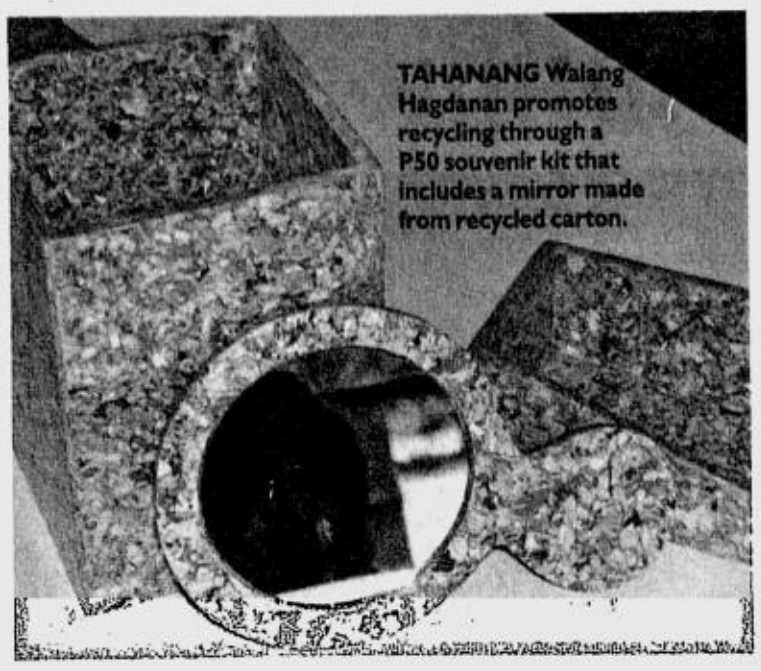
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

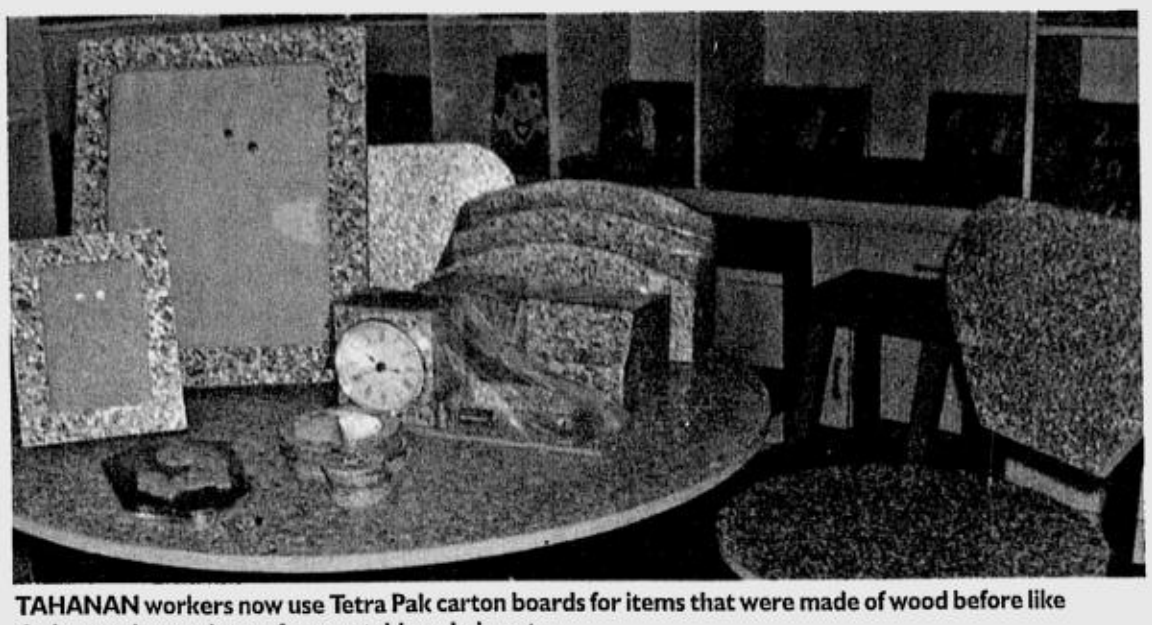
LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING





TAHANANG Walang Hagdanan promotes recycling through a P50 souvenir kit that includes a mirror made from recycled carton.



TAHANAN workers now use Tetra Pak carton boards for items that were made of wood before like desk organizers, picture frames, tables, chairs, etc.

A BAR stool allows Tahanan workers to combine metal with Tetra Pak carton boards.

Building from trash

Text and photos by Linda B. Bolido

THE PACKAGE that holds your milk or juice or tomato sauce is now also a table, a chair, a tray and even a key holder.

Pretty soon it may even be a wall or a door or a cabinet in some modest home. In fact, a few Latin American houses have already started substituting boards made from the recycled packages for plywood.

Without fanfare, Tetra Pak, the multinational company that introduced the revolutionary lightweight and easy-to-handle cartons now used to package a broad range of products, has started a recycling program in the Philippines that links up students, consumers, the handicapped and streetchildren while making the environment just a little less cluttered.

The initiative draws on technology and experience from other countries. "Care and Share," Tetra Pak's recycling program, has two components. A collection/retrieval campaign, now involving 50 private schools, represents the "Care" part. Students in the institutions are being taught to care for the environment by recycling Tetra Pak packages.

Special bins

The campaign was launched in 2002 with eight schools participating. Special bins have been installed in schools where faculty and students can put the cartons.

A still little-known effort to get consumers involved in the campaign has started in the Makati commercial center with collection bins installed in a couple of supermarkets.

The other aspect of the program, Share with the Less Fortunate, has provided jobs to former streetchildren, who became wards of the Tuloy sa Don Bosco shelter set up by Fr. Rocky Evangelista. The program has also provided new money-earning opportunities for the disabled workers at the Tahanang Walang Hagdanan Inc., who are now turning the boards made from Tetra Pak packages into items like picture frames, organizers and small furniture. The items have added to the list of products the institution sells to help sustain its operations.

Tetra Pak's partner in breathing new life into discarded packages—and in providing gainful employment to the streetchildren—is the Trans-National Paper Corporation. The company started as a publishing concern before going into the paper recycling business.

Using technology developed in Germany, the company bought a machine from India that had now been installed in its manufacturing plant in Tanza, Cavite.

Lorenzo P. Ligot of the Tanza plant said, when they agreed to team up with Tetra Pak in the campaign, all they asked was assurance that they would have enough materials to work with and they would get help in marketing the product.

Simple technology

The company, which has eight Tuloy wards working in the Tanza plant at the moment, easily accommodated the recycling of used Tetra Pak cartons without a lot of retraining involved. The process begins with the shredding of the packages. Shredded pieces are soaked in water then placed in a mold the size of a full-length board before passing through the machine that basically just dries it.

Ligot said boards from the packages contained exactly the same elements that the original cartons had. No chemicals were added in the process, making it safe for both workers in the plant and the end user. What bound the shreds together was the plastic that was already one of the components of the original package. When heated, the plastic melted and spread, binding the other components.

A MADONNA and Child image in Tetra Pak carton is put to good advantage against a wooden frame.

At the Tanza plant, the company has made boards in the standard width and length of plywood—four by eight feet—and with different thickness, too: 4 mm, 6 mm, 12 mm and 18 mm.

Ligot said the Habitat for Humanity had used the boards for the doors of some of the low-cost houses it was building. The company, of course, would like to see the board used in more construction projects.

Ligot said the material was "cheaper than plywood, would not warp and was resistant to termites." Painting is also optional as the board retains the colors of the packages used and, in fact, comes out with unintended patterns. The board would also be a good substitute for wallpaper, Ligot added, because it was very flat when installed, eliminating the problem of bumps.

Challenge

In fact, the flatness has become a challenge to Tahanan. A customer, who has seen its bar stool and table, wants a set but with the backrest more rounded. Joy Cevallos-Garcia, Tahanan's chief executive officer, hoped one of Tetra Pak's offices abroad had already come up with the technology to make that happen.

Tahanan workers had so far turned the boards into picture frames, trays, key chains, desk organizers and clocks, pen holders, magazine racks, tables and chairs. Garcia said she was drawn to the Tetra Pak initiative because "it helped clean the environment." Already working with metal and wood, the institution merely combined the recycled product with their raw materials.

Products made from the boards are sold not just at the Tahanan gift shop but also in its own monthly bazaars and other events where it participates.

Tahanan also helps spread the good word about Tetra Pak carton recycling. Visitors can get a P50 souvenir kit at the gift shop that includes a mirror whose frame is made of recycled carton board.

Aside from its collection, campaign, Marily C. Gutierrez, communications and environment manager, said the company also organized puppet shows in schools to spread the recycling message of recycling in an entertaining way. "We also have videos on environment/recycling... (and will be distributing) a teacher's guide...," she said.

The company is a consistent supporter of the Museo Pambata, and has a Tetra Pak Craft Room at the museum. For several years now, it has co-sponsored with the museum children's art contests using Tetra Pak packages.

Aside from the Philippines, Tetra Pak has recycling programs in Germany (paper and boards that are made into furniture), Chile (boards), Thailand (paper and boards), India (boards), Pakistan (boards), China (boards), and Italy (paper).

Tetra Pak (Philippines) Inc. is at 7/F, Net One Center, Fort Bonifacio Global City, Taguig 1634, Metro Manila. Call 8181306, telefax 8181072.

Trans-National Paper Corporation is at Rm. 301-302 Jollibee Center Building, San Miguel Ave., Pasig City. Call 6334213, fax 6336789/90.

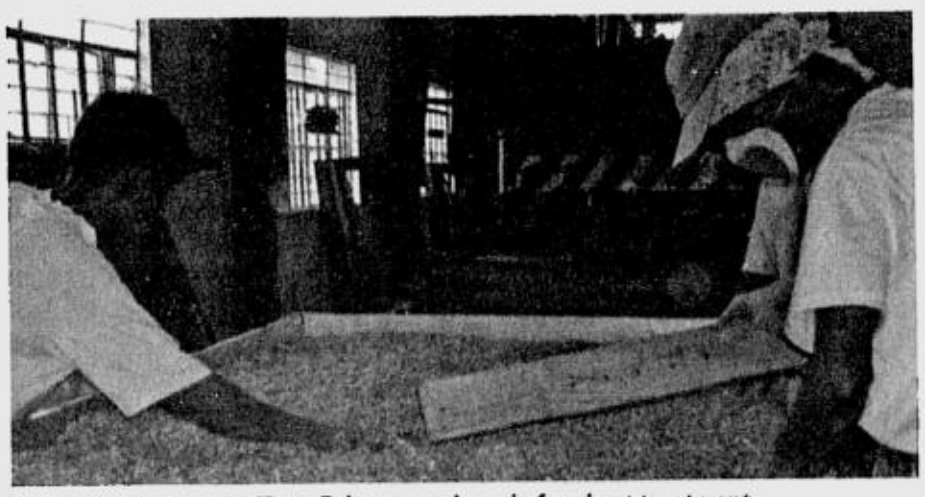
Tahanang Walang Hagdanan Inc. is at 175 Aida St., Marick Subdivision, Cainta, Rizal. Call 6550055, 6550059, 2482698, or fax 6550812.

E-mail the author at lbolido@inquirer.com.ph

Packaging giant Tetra Pak has developed technology that not only helps rid the environment of its used cartons but also provides alternative low-cost construction material

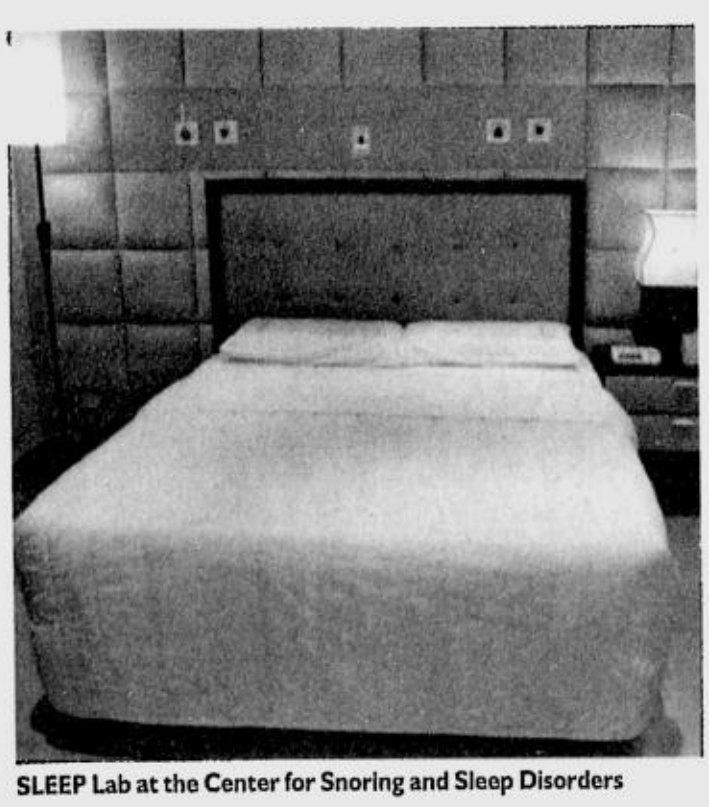
SPECIAL bins have been installed in participating schools for carton collection.

TETRA Pak cartons collected from schools are ready for shredding at Trans-National.



WORKERS flatten wet Tetra Pak carton pieces before heat treatment.

Oasis of health and well-being



SLEEP Lab at the Center for Snoring and Sleep Disorders

From page D1

Back-up generators with four-day fuel supply ensure continued operation of all systems in the event of power interruption," adds architect Dan Lichauco.

Patient safety

Being a public facility that is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, security is of paramount importance.

Closed circuit television sets can be found in key areas. A watchman tour system monitors the movement of all security personnel, ensuring proper and complete coverage. Alarms are also connected to doors meant for exiting the facility to ensure that these are not used for uncontrolled entry.

In further consideration of patient safety, positive/negative pressure zoning was developed to ensure that contaminated air exits the building and does not re-circulate.

"All operating rooms employ laminar flow and Hepa filtration systems that preserve the sterility of these sensitive units. In addition, Level 5 anti-bacterial paint has been used as added protection in all sterile areas," says Dr. Mediadora Saniel, head of medical services group.

Soothing contrast

Landscaped gardens in some areas provide a soothing contrast to the concrete and steel structure.

The hues of the interiors exude tranquility. All patient rooms have been designed to simulate a home environment. Comfortable waiting areas are available for patients and their companions.

Other facilities, including banks and ATMs, coffee shops, a convenience store, gift and flower shops, beauty salon, gym and various food establishments can also be found within the complex.

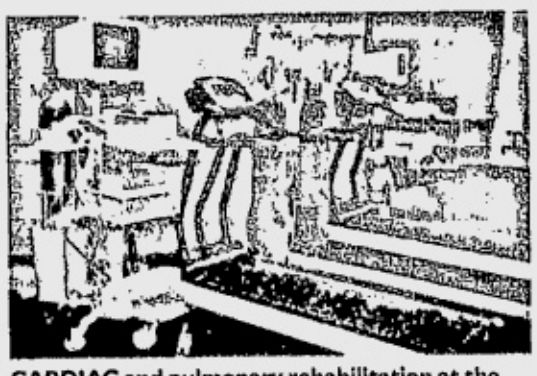
"Our vision is to be the leader in shaping how Filipinos feel, think and behave about health as well as how health services are accessed by and delivered to them," says Dr. Bengzon.

"We understand the role of a hospital as not merely attending to the needs of the sick but as providing for the continuum of health needs—prevention, promotion, diagnosis and treatment."

Call 6356789/ 6318626.

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph

DR. AUGUSTO Sarmiento, chair; Dr. Alfredo Bengzon, president and CEO; and Dr. Mediadora Saniel, head, medical services group



CARDIAC and pulmonary rehabilitation at the Special Services and Diagnostic Unit

UST, La Salle win badminton championships

By Dexter R. Matilla
Contributor

ALFREDO Mailon Jr. never felt such pressure in his life. He had just lost the first set of his singles match. He needed to win the next two for University of Santo Tomas to get the JVC Inter-collegiate Men's Badminton Championship.

"I was almost losing hope and feeling desperate," Mailon said. But, though the second set was tough, he managed to tie the game and force a rubber match. Mailon rode the momentum of his second-set win and pulled off a miraculous comeback.

Morale booster

Mailon, a former Milo Little Olympics silver medalist, said their team's victory gave them a better chance in the coming badminton tournament of the University Athletic Association of the Phils. (UAAP) as it boosted the players' morale and inspired them to strive better.

The third-year AB Communication Arts student was introduced to badminton by his father 10 years ago. "My father told me to join a badminton training camp in Crame," Mailon said. "I liked it and I became very dedicated."

The recent JVC tournament was very memorable for him as he "was the team's anchor." Before that, the most memorable for him was when he became the men's champion in the Millennium Palaro ng Bayan in General Santos City four years ago, winning P50,000.

His team's win in the recent JVC tournament meant a trip to Boracay, P50,000, trophy and medals, Siemens Mobile Phones, JVC Digital Cameras, Gosen Rackets and Shuttlecocks, Alaska gift packs and Rudy Project products.

Mailon, a national team member, said while he would continue playing badminton after college, his priority would be his career.

Double trouble

Sisters Paula and Therine Chan turned heads not only for their looks but also for their chemistry on the court, which was bad news for their opponents during the JVC championships.

The sisters helped De La Salle University's women's badminton contingent breeze through the tournament, scoring a masterful victory over last season's UAAP champion, Ateneo de Manila University.

"For me personally, *parang* preview *na ito nang mangyayari sa* UAAP," said Paula, 21, DLSU's team captain of four years. "Our teammate Paula Obañana had a knee injury last year but now, even if she's still (recovering), she played well and helped us win."

Paula said their anxieties about playing against Ateneo vanished after Obañana won the first singles match.

The Chan sisters exuded confidence as they raced to a commanding 12-1 advantage and never looked back. DLSU's victory earned the team a trip to Boracay, P50,000, trophy and medals, Siemens Mobile Phones, JVC Digital Cameras, Gosen Rackets and Shuttlecocks, Alaska gift packs, Lactacyd gift packs and Rudy Project products.

Though they are becoming one of the best tandems in local amateur badminton, the sisters said they did not want to play the sport when they were younger.

"In 1998, our dad told us to join Milo's badminton summer training camp," Paula said. "*Ayaw namin nung simula kasi parang nakakatamad. Pero sabi ng* dad *namin, subukan lang... at kung magustuhan... ituloy namin.* Luckily, *madami kami agad naging* friends and *nag*-enjoy *na kami maglaro.*"

The sisters play during weekends and enroll in the camp in the summer, playing everyday that the administrators asked them to start teaching.

The sisters then joined the first badminton tournament organized by JVC. They won their first game but lost against their aunt.

But they got better, even helping DLSU to win the UAAP women's badminton title in 2002.

Paula said it helped that she and her sister were always together.

Teamwork

"*May* advantage *kami kasi nakakapag*-practice *kami* every day," she said. "*Kahit papaano may* teamwork *kami. Kaya namin makiramdam sa isa't-isa. Alam na namin kung saan kami pupunta.*"

How can people tell who's who when they are on the court? "*Mapapansin sa* way *ng paglalaro namin,*" Paula said. "*Kung sino iyong palaging nasa harapan, ako na iyon.* More on strategy *kasi ako. Si* Therine *naman*, more of a powerplayer."

And who's better? Therine said there was no comparison. "*Magaling si* Paula *mag*-set up *tapos ako ang taga*-smash. Aside from that, *magaling din siya sa* drop shots, cross-courts, *at sa pag*-push *ng bola.*"

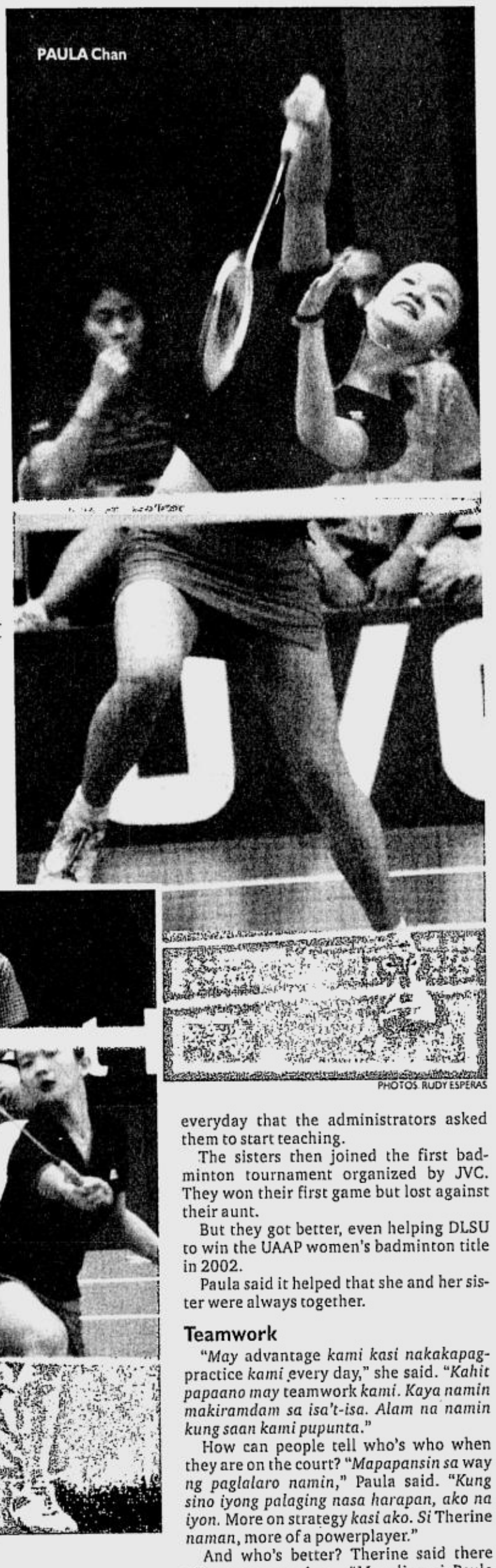
Paula said communication was important in any team sport. "*Minsan humihina kami kapag hindi kami nagkakasundo ni* Therine," she said. "Even during a game, *tahimik lang kami, hindi kami mag-iimikan.* So it's important that you communicate with your partner."

The sisters said passion was what fueled people to excel in any field.

"*Kasi kahit sabihin na natin na mahirap kang turuan o matututo, kung* passionate *ka, gagawa ka ng paraan,*" said Paula.

"*Iyon ang magpu*-push *sa iyo na i*-prove *ang sarili mo,*" Therine added.

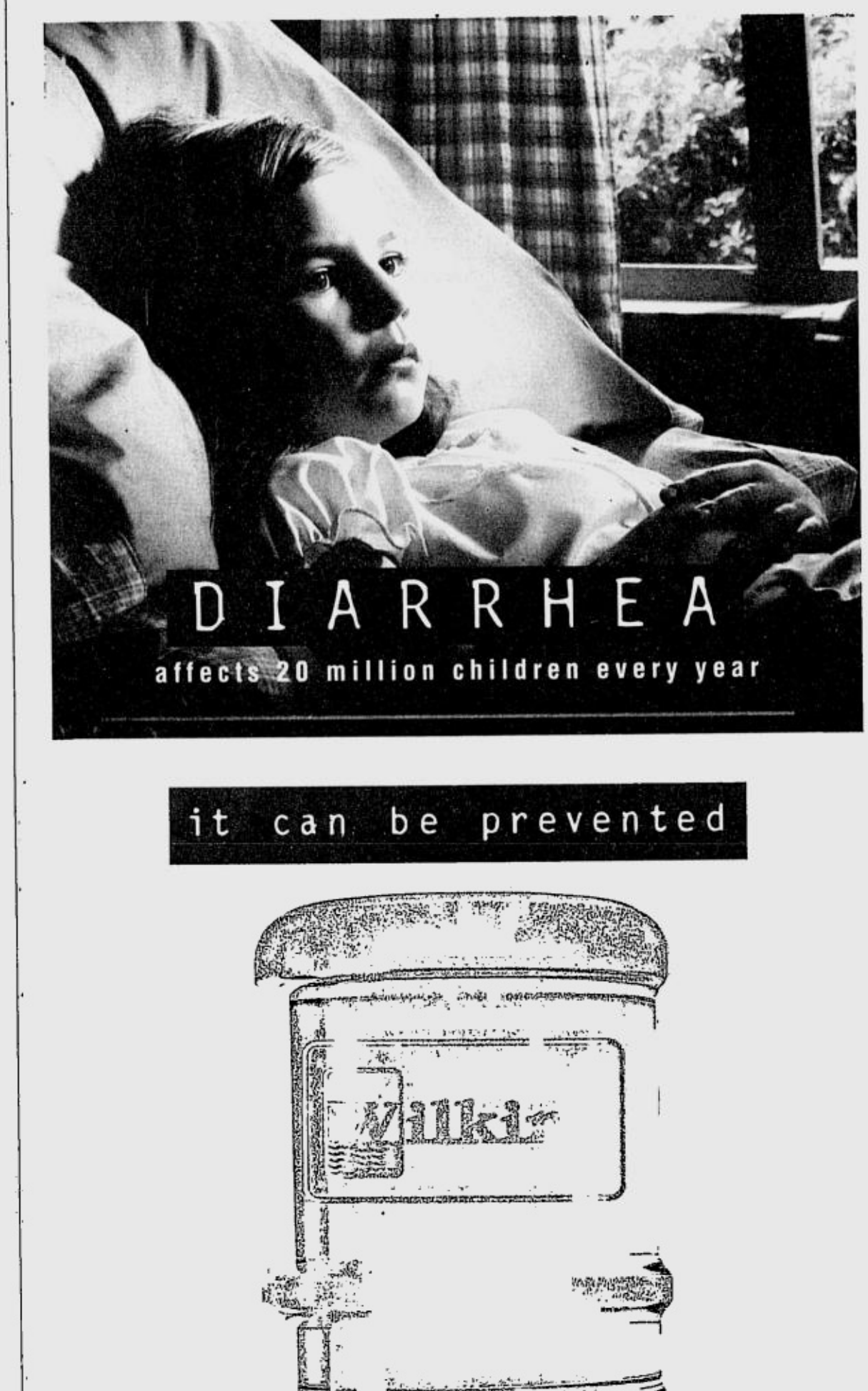
After college, Paula, a Legal Management major, and Therine, who's taking up Advertising Management, said they want to start their own businesses.



The recent JVC Inter-collegiate tournament may be a preview of UAAP action

PHOTOS RUDY ESPERAS

THERINE Chan



*According to the World Health Organization (WHO), water-borne diseases take the lives of at least 3.4 million people each year, making them collectively more lethal than AIDS.**

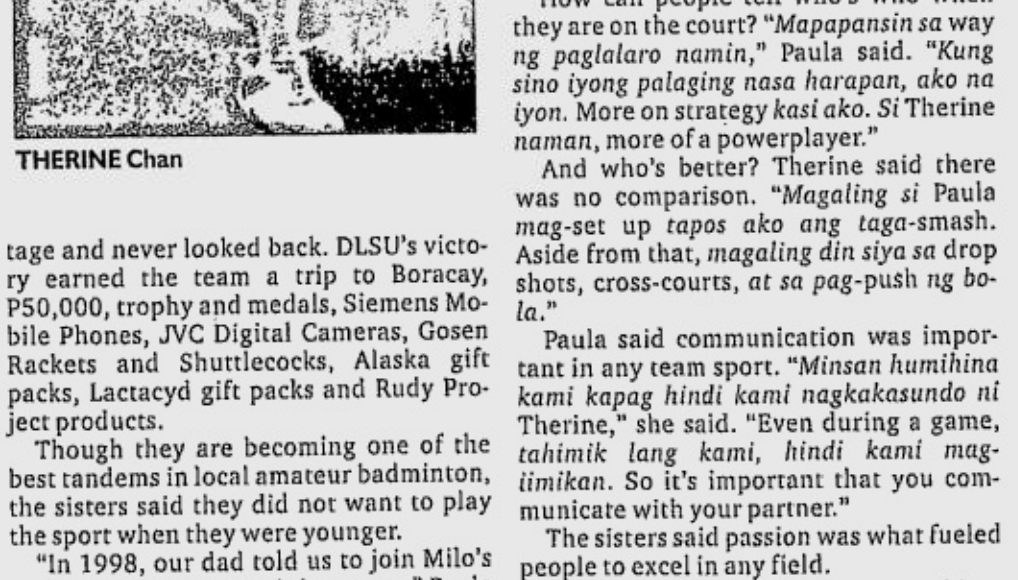
For pure and safe drinking water, trust Wilkins. It contains no bacteria, no parasites, no life threatening diseases, nothing but pure and safe distilled drinking water.

* World Health Organization "Water and Sanitation" Facts and Figures (as of August 28, 2002)

Wilkins
NOTHING BUT PURE AND SAFE DISTILLED DRINKING WATER.

For Inquiries and 5-Gallon Deliveries CALL CUSTOMER CARE HOTLINE 689-9111 •
Provincial Toll-Free 1-800-10-689-9111 • Text messaging (0917) 689-9111 • Visit www.wilkins.com.ph

Wilkins is a registered trademark of The Coca-Cola Company. © 2004 The Coca-Cola Company



JVC Phil. General Manager Kazue Salud (standing, left) with organizers and the De La Salle team, women's inter-collegiate champion

ENTERTAINMENT Metro

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Louie C. Camino
Assistant Editor Emmie G. Velarde

Text us your feedback: inquirer ent name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Beautiful, talented, 'obssessive-compulsive'

HARD to believe this pretty woman screams when the house is dirty.

By Bayani S. San Diego Jr.
Contributor

"I'M OBSSESSIVE-COMPULSIVE!" Dawn Zulueta feigns horror.

A longtime friend, photographer Raymond Isaac, agrees. "She has always been organized, but after getting married and moving to Davao, she became OC. She says life in Davao is so laid-back, she has to constantly find things to do."

Dawn owns up. "It's so easy to get bored there. That's why I keep myself busy."

The semi-retired actress, a certified busybody, is not complaining. Running her household like a tight ship, she might be called a domestic diva.

Anton Lagdameo, her husband of seven years, is perplexed, to put it mildly. "Actually," Dawn laughs, "he's afraid I'm bordering on crazy. That's because I even arrange the CDs in alphabetical order!"

Dawn Zulueta admits she's a neat freak who arranges even the CDs alphabetically

Amateur designer

She has always been a stickler for order, that's for sure. "I am such a neat freak," she says, "when it comes to my schedules ... even my things, my shoes. I cannot stand dust. It can get so embarrassing. You'll hear me scream if the house is not clean."

The furniture and décor in the house are constantly being moved around. It must be the amateur interior designer in her. "So I hired houseboys instead of housemaids," she says. "Houseboys are stronger, quicker. They're not sluggish."

Marketing chores she usually leaves in the hands of her trusted driver, although when she has to, she doesn't mind doing it herself.

She explains: "One great thing about living in Davao—everything's fresh!

Fruits, vegetables, seafood .. and since there is no traffic, you can buy all the ingredients that you need on the day itself. I don't like storing food in the freezer for too long."

Advocacy work

Outside of her squeaky-clean home, Dawn occupies herself with advocacy work to help such groups as Violence Against Women, Batalunan Crisis Center, and Davao Beautiful Foundation.

"These are the causes I believe in," she says. "My Tita Margie Moran-Floirendo [married to Anton's uncle] invited me to join DBF."

She is planning to become more active in other groups like Bantay Bata and Habitat. On top of this, she has found time to write for a glossy magazine about events in Davao. She also participates in the province's annual holiday bazaars, hawking everything, from home-baked cookies to aromatherapy soap and beaded Christmas trees.

Volunteer work keeps her "grounded, she admits. "It makes me realize how blessed I am. Yes, I give of myself, but I'm the one who gets more out of every encounter. I am reminded to stop complaining about petty things because some people are just coping and surviving and they have bigger, more serious problems. Sometimes all it takes to make them smile is for me to pose for a snapshot with them, or to chat with them—just a little of my time."

Go-signal

But show biz calls again and again. There have been offers to do another movie after her comeback project, "Filipinas." And recently, she accepted a role in the GMA-7 teleserye "Forever in My Heart," forming a love triangle with Richard Gomez and Regine Velasquez. She is also hosting "ABCinema" on ABC-5, which showcases award-winning Asian films.

She knows exactly when to do whatever it is she sets her heart on: When the right project, for the right reason, comes along. "I wish we could develop shows and movies that remind us of our roots, our history, our values, our strengths as a people," she says.

She is appalled at the sensational goings-on in local Showtown. "Things are really different now," she sighs. "I'm so not used to it. I get shocked. Everything is in-your-face. All the scandals, all the family feuds we see on TV. I can't stand it. Whenever I come across something like that on television, I switch channels or just watch cable."

Maybe a sitcom

Needless to say, Dawn is not about to jeopardize her life of serenity just to get work, even if the lure of the spotlight is proving to be irresistible. "I feel that I still have a lot of creativity waiting to be expressed," she says. She even wants to try singing; she has an entire cabaret act in mind.

She's even eager to try comedy, for a change. "I'd love to do a sitcom like 'Will & Grace,'" she says excitedly. "Take that character Grace. She is so whole, multi-dimensional. You see her quirks, her idiosyncracies, her nuances. And still you love her."

The same might be said of Dawn—OC, quirky, intractable, complex. And still she is loved.

Nanette Inventor's not-so-impossible mission

TEN years of staying power in the entertainment Industry is already a milestone. But 21 years?

Nanette Inventor, still "Doña Buding" to many, is easily recognizable by any Filipino who spots her anywhere. And why wouldn't she be, when, for the past two decades (at least 12 years with Manila Genesis Entertainment), this intelligent, funny and musical genius has brought life, love and laughter to her countrymen via TV, films, concerts and corporate shows?

A teacher

Unknown to many, Nanette is also a teacher, and comes from a long line of educators. Her late grandfather was a Sunday school teacher, an aunt is still the Dean of Mary Johnston's College, her mom was a teacher, her sister was a teacher of Asian Studies at the University of the Philippines, and some of her nieces are also teachers.

"Not to say that I am educated," she laughs. "But honestly, if I were not an entertainer, I would continue the teaching legacy. Being both a teacher and an entertainer, I am the one that gets the learnings really. I love traveling and my work not only allows me to learn new culture and widen my horizon; it also keeps me on track with my set mission in life."

She has done almost everything a Filipino entertainer can do, including her favorite engagement, performing for overseas workers

On the global side of show biz, Nanette is one of the few artists in the country constantly sought after to do shows abroad. Nowadays she's seen as semi-regular on the GMA-7's "Joyride" as "Starstruck" survivor Rainier's lovable *lola*, and reprising her "Tita Munding" character in "HBO, Hanap Buhay Overseas" on Saturdays.

The latter fits her sentiments to a T.

Secret of success

A well-traveled, well-rounded individual (no pun intended), Nanette says it's always been part of her "mission" to be "a channel of entertainment for Overseas Filipino Workers."

When asked what she attributes her success to, she readily replies, "Love and passion for my craft. (Plus) I've been blessed simply because I know I owe everything and leave everything up to God."

Nanette just wound up a concert tour of Amsterdam, Switzerland, London, Rome, and Vienna, with Geneva Cruz and the Apo Hiking Society. Plans are afoot for a second leg of the concert, in the US and Canada.

What more could Nanette ask for? Well, maybe a concert with the Philharmonic Orchestra. Nanette understands why people tend to see her only as a "funny lady who can sing." But she truly hopes to be recognized, too, as a singer who just happens to be "seriously funny."

A.K.A. Dona Buding: "I'm a teacher, too, you know."

WHAT'S INSIDE

Paolo Santos wanted only free beer / Page 4

Angel Locsin strikes while the iron is hot / Page 4

UP Film Institute's focus on docus / Page 3

Jacko's Neverland is definitely not a winner / Page 3

All-Digital Cinemas

MARKET! MARKET!

Cinemas! Cinemas!

The fun is in the finds

Developed and managed by Ayala Land, Inc.

Movie tickets for sale at the Ground Floor Fiesta Market and Customer Service Booth

Free Seating Cinemas: P70.00

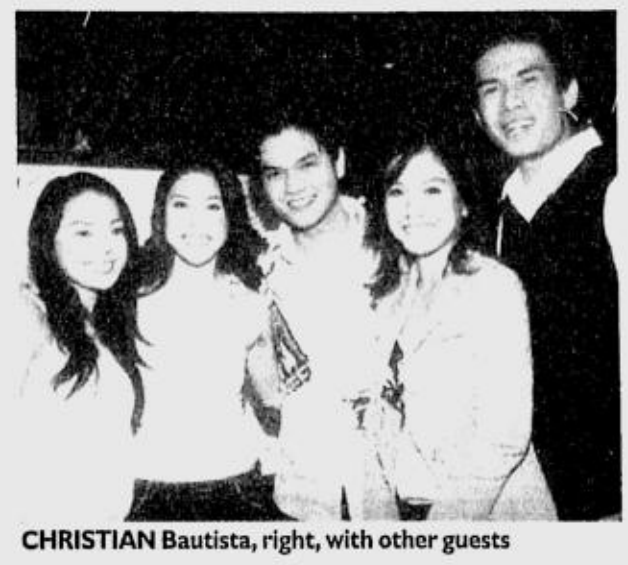
1. Bcuz of U
2. The Polar Express
3. Seed of Chucky
4. Pa-siyam

Guaranteed Seats Cinemas: P90.00

5. National Treasure
6. Bridget Jones:The Edge of Reason
7. Alexander

Movies are subject to change without prior notice.
Customer Service Hotline: 886-7516

MARK Bautista



CHRISTIAN Bautista, right, with other guests

ASTER Amoyo with Mikey Arroyo

AUBREY Miles and Maricar de Mesa

SSStar-studded

Two magazines, one grand party

IT WAS a star-studded double celebration for Global Publishing and Entertainment Corp. as it celebrated S Magazine's third anniversary and launched Inside Showbiz at Metro Concert Bar on West Avenue, Quezon City.

Big names in local entertainment gathered for the event with media people, sponsors, advertisers, dealers and distributors.

The night sparkled with songs, fun and dancing. The performers were: True Faith, Luke Mejares, Kyla, Christian Bautista, Rachelle Ann Go, Mark Bautista, Josh Santana, Raymond Manalo, Roxie, Marissa Sanchez, Ynez Veneracion, Aubrey Miles, Maricar de Mesa, K and the Boxers, Sexbomb Dancers, Masculados, KeEKaAYZ, Janelle Jamer, Jennifer Ventura, Born Diva finalists, Abracadabra, Fat 4, 5th Gear and Velocity.

A highlight of the party was a fashion show featuring the holiday collection of designer Gener Gozum. The program was emceed by Juliana Palermo, Troy Montero, Iza Calzado, Dominic Ochoa and Drew Arellano.

Spotted were celebrities Rudy Fernandez, Maricel Soriano, Pops Fernandez, Tirso Cruz III, Rep. Mikey Arroyo, Dingdong Avanzado, Jessa Zaragoza, Joyce Jimenez, Albert Martinez, Angelu de Leon, Beth Tamayo, Alfred Vargas, Gladys Reyes, Krista Ranillo, Roselle Nava, Girlie Sevilla;

Divo, JE Sison, Maui David, Nino Alejandro, Allen Dizon, Annabel Rama, Eva Eugenio, Sugarfree, Ramona Revilla, Pam G, Kris Martinez, Jams Vergara, FLT Films' Rose Flaminiano, Universal Records' Bella Tan, OctoArts' Orly Ilacad, Violet Sevilla, Maryo J. delos Reyes, and talent managers Manny Valera and Wyngard Tracy.

S Magazine is a full-color glossy entertainment and lifestyle magazine, with entertainment writer and PR practitioner Aster A. Amoyo as managing director and publisher. It comes out monthly, and is circulated in the Philippines, Japan, Hong Kong, the United States, Europe, the Middle East, Taiwan, Korea, Singapore, Guam, Australia, Thailand and Canada.

Inside Showbiz is also a monthly, full-color glossy magazine.

SM Cinema movietime

moviepickoftheWeek

RENÉE ZELLWEGER HUGH GRANT COLIN FIRTH

BRIDGET JONES THE EDGE OF REASON

SAME BRIDGET. BRAND NEW DIARY.

| whattowatch |

—THE— PODIUM CINEMA

1 ALEXANDER

2 BRIDGET JONES 2

For Seat Reservation, call 633 8976
LATE NIGHT SCREENING
DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS

MTRCB RATING: R13 ALEXANDER

SM Bicutan Cinema 1 · SM Tutuban Cinema 1 · SM Supercenter Sucat Cinema 3 · SM Sta. Mesa Cinema 3 · SM Southmall Cinema 8 · SM Fairview Cinema 4 · SM Manila Cinema 4 · SM North Edsa Cinema 8 · SM Megamall Cinema 1

BCUZ OF U Subject to MTRCB RATING

SM Manila Cinema 12 · SM North Edsa Cinema 3 · SM Megamall Cinema 11 · SM Sta. Mesa Cinema 9 · SM Southmall Cinema 10 · SM Tutuban Cinema 4 · SM Fairview Cinema 5 · SM Bicutan Cinema 3

MTRCB RATING:PG 13 BRIDGET JONES 2

SM Southmall Cinema 4 · SM Sta. Mesa Cinema 4 · SM Manila Cinema 6 · SM Fairview Cinema 7 · SM Megamall Cinema 9 · SM North Edsa Cinema 6

NATIONAL TREASURE MTRCB RATING: G

SM Manila Cinema 1 · SM North Edsa Cinema 7 · SM Megamall Cinema 4 · SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 5 · SM Southmall Cinema 2 · SM Fairview Cinema 6 · SM Tutuban Cinema 2 · SM Sucat Cinema 4

SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING PA-SIYAM

SM Bicutan Cinema 2 · SM Tutuban Cinema 3 · SM Sucat Cinema 2 · SM Southmall Cinema 7 · SM Fairview Cinema 9 · SM Megamall Cinema 8 · SM Sta. Mesa Cinema 1

THE POLAR EXPRESS MTRCB Rating: G

SM Manila Cinema 3 · SM North Edsa Cinema 2 · SM Sta. Mesa Cinema 7 · SM Southmall Cinema 1 · SM Fairview Cinema 8 · SM Megamall Cinema 6

SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS

SM Fairview Cinema 11

AFTER THE SUNSET MTRCB RATING:R13 — SM Manila Cinema 2, SM Megamall Cinema 2, SM Fairview Cinema 12, SM Sta. Mesa Cinema 6, SM Southmall Cinema 3

HELLWOLF SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING — SM Manila Cinema 8, SM Megamall Cinema 7

THE INCREDIBLES MTRCB RATING: G — SM Manila Cinema 11, SM Sta. Mesa Cinema 2, SM Megamall Cinema 6, SM North Edsa Cinema 6, SM Southmall Cinema 5, SM Fairview Cinema 2

SANTA SANTITA MTRCB RATING: PG13 — SM Manila Cinema 5, SM Megamall Cinema 12, SM Sta. Mesa Cinema 10, SM Fairview Cinema 1, SM Southmall Cinema 9

SAW MTRCB RATING: R 13 — SM Manila Cinema 10, SM Megamall Cinema 5, SM Southmall Cinema 6, SM Sta. Mesa Cinema 8, SM Fairview Cinema 3

Movies are subject to change without prior notice • For complete movie schedule, visit www.smcinema.com

SM LIVE! CINEMA

Welcomes you to

Trumpets

PETER PAN AND THE TIME MACHINE

SM MEGAMALL Cinema 10

Saturday-Sunday

December 11, 12 and 18; 11am, 3pm, 6pm

Sunday

December 19; 11am, 3pm, 6pm, 8pm

BUY YOUR TICKETS IN ADVANCE

Tickets are available at: Trumpets Office 633-5010, 636-2842, trumpets@compass.com.ph · Ticketnet 911-5555 · National Bookstore TICKETWORLD 891-9999

Ticket Prices: P350 - Orchestra, P250 - Balcony

Also available at the SM Cinema Ticket Booths at SM Megamall on December 4 and 5, 2004

Araneta Center ENTERTAINMENT

OPENS TOMORROW

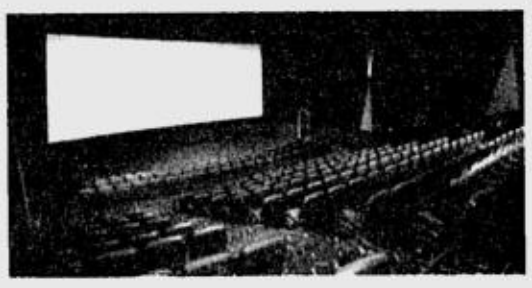
Cinematic "Ultra-Sound"

Our Dolby Digital EX sound system almost makes you "see" the sound

To hear is to believe.

Gateway CINEPLEX 10

Movie-going like no other.



Gateway

Like no other mall in the world

Beside Araneta Coliseum

ALMA CINEPLEX

3 Dolby ALEXANDER 140 510 840

4 SDDS NATIONAL TREASURE 1245 330 615 900

5 dts SEED OF CHUCKY 1140 155 410 625 840

6 Dolby PA SIYAM 1120 140 400 620 840

7 Dolby BCUZ OF U 1220 230 440 650 900

NEW FIESTA CARNIVAL

OPEN TODAY 4PM TO 10PM

ARANETA COLISEUM

Dec. 8 LEA SALONGA

Dec. 10 SLR vs. PUREFOODS

Dec. 12 RED BULL vs. COKE

Dec. 15 FEDEX vs. SLR

Dec. 25 DISNEY ON ICE 1PM/4:30PM/6PM

Dec. 26 DISNEY ON ICE 2PM/6PM

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

ISHANG CINEPLEX Telephone: 633.2227 / 633.7851 loc. 171

PREMIERE THEATRE
(DOLBY) THE INCREDIBLES GP

1 (DOLBY) ALEXANDER R13
2 (DOLBY) BRIDGET JONESS PG13
3 (DOLBY) POLAR EXPRESS GP
4 (DOLBY) NATIONAL TREASURE GP

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA

(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (SDDS) ALEXANDER
2 (SDDS) NATIONAL TREASURE
3 (DTS) POLAR EXPRESS
4 GOLD (DTS) BRIDGET JONES
5 GOLD (DOLBY) SEED OF CHUCKY
6 GOLD (SDDS) NATIONAL TREASURE
7 GOLD (DOLBY) ALEXANDER
8 (PROJ.) BCUZ OF U
9 (PROJ.) PASIYAM
10 (PROJ.) HELLWOLF

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72

1 (DOLBY) BRIDGET JONES DIARY 2
2 (DOLBY) ALEXANDER
3 (DOLBY) NATIONAL TREASURE
4 (DOLBY) THE POLAR EXPRESS

SUPER CINERAMA Isetann CINERAMA COMPLEX RECTO tel 733.4238

1. (DOLBY) ALEXANDER
2. NAKAW NA SANDALI
3. NATIONAL TREASURE
4. PASIYAM
5. RESERVED

Gotesco Grand Central (Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE
3 RESERVE
4 (SDDS) RESERVE
5 RESERVE
6 (DOLBY) RESERVE
7 (DTS) RESERVE
8 RESERVE
9 RESERVE

Berma Cinema (Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1 NAKAW NA SANDALI
2 OUT OF REACH

Lianas Cinema (Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS) MARITAL RAPE
2 NAKAW NA SANDALI
3 MINSAN PA
4 (DTS) RESIDENT EVIL

Masagana CINEMA (Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1 NAKAW NA SANDALI
2 PASIYAM
3 ALEXANDER

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 TAXI
2 SAPLOT
3 SAW
4

starmall Movies www.clickthecity.com.ph (Las Pinas) tel (047) 237.7007

1 (DOLBY) SHARK TALE
2 SANTA SANTITA

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT Araneta Center

MALL CINEPLEX

Tel. 911-3101 loc. 8242 / 8281 / 8397

3 (Dolby) ALEXANDER
4 (SDDS) NATIONAL TREASURE
5 (DTS) SEED OF CHUCKY
6 (Dolby) PA SIYAM
7 (Dolby) BCUZ OF U

starmall Movies www.clickthecity.com.ph (Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986

1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 PASIYAM
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) ALEXANDER
5 NAKAW NA SANDALI

METROPOLIS star (Alabang) tel 850.4285

1 SEED OF CHUCKY
2 NAKAW NA SANDALI
3 PASIYAM
4 BCUZ OF U
5 (DOLBY) ALEXANDER
6 NATIONAL TREASURE

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

UP Film Institute's focus on docus

STARTING today up till Dec. 10 at the University of the Philippines' Film Institute: a focus on documentaries, in line with the celebration of Human Rights Month.

Opening films include Michael Moore's "Fahrenheit 9/11." The complete schedule follows:

Dec. 7 "Ang Kalye ni Aling Jeth/Panata/Tunay na Buhay," 2 p.m.; "Between the Cracks: Voices of the Philippine Informal Sector," 4 p.m.; "Fahrenheit 9/11," 6 p.m.

Dec 8 "The Wonderful, Horrible Life of Leni Riefenstahl," 2 p.m.; "Imelda," 6 p.m.

Dec 9 Clodualdo del Mundo Jr.'s "Maid in Singapore," 2 p.m.; "UP Not for Sale"/"Mula 3rd Avenue Hanggang sa Dulo"/"Agno"/"On Potok," 4 p.m.; "Alingawngaw ng mga Punglo"/"Silang Anak Ninyo Rin at Kasama," 6 p.m.

Dec 10Ditsi Carolino's "Bunso (The Youngest)," 4 and 7 p.m.

The UP Film Institute is the only institution in the country that offers a full degree in Film. Year-round, it runs the one-of-its-kind cinema that screens an unmatched number of quality films free from censorship and programmed with the highest curatorial considerations. For details, call 926-3640, or e-mail upfilminstitute@hotmail.com.

More employment opportunities in today's
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
JOB Market
Where You Find The Best.

This Neverland is not a winner

LOS ANGELES—Police and investigators probing child molestation charges against superstar Michael Jackson on Friday launched a fresh search on his famed Neverland Ranch, detectives said.

The reason for the latest search warrant was not immediately clear. An initial swoop on the sprawling estate in California took place just over a year ago and resulted in Jackson's arrest.

The "King of Pop" was not present at the ranch, named after the home of the eternally youthful children's literary character Peter Pan, when police swooped, Jackson's entourage told AFP.

The raid is one of a number of searches that have been carried out on various locations linked to Jackson since he was arrested on Nov. 20 last year.

Jackson turned himself in two days after the initial Nov. 18, 2003 swoop on his rural estate and was later charged with having molested a 12-year-old boy at Neverland in February and March of last year.

Jackson has pleaded not guilty to a 10-count indictment that accused him child abuse, plying the boy with alcohol to seduce him and with counts of conspiring to kidnap and illegally imprison the youth and his family.

Jury selection in the celebrity trial was due to begin in Santa Maria, south of Neverland, on Jan. 31. The star remains free on three million dollars bail. *AFP*

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City
For inquiries, call:
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

BRIDGET JONES DIARY 2
10:30, 1:00, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00
PG-13

ALEXANDER
11:45, 3:15, 6:45, 10:15
R-13

NATIONAL TREASURE
11:20, 2:05, 4:50, 7:35, 10:20
GP

THE POLAR EXPRESS
10:30, 12:45, 3:15, 5:45, 8:15, 10:45
GP

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. Nos. 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

ALEXANDER
R13
12:50,4:00,7:10,10:20

NATIONAL TREASURE
GP
11:50,2:25,5.00,7:35,10:10

BRIDGET JONES
PG13
12:50,3:10,5.30,7:50,10:10

CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS
GP
12:00,1:55,3:50, 5:50,7.50,9.50

SEED OF CHUCKY
R18
12:00,2:00,4:00, 6:00,8:00,10:00

POLAR EXPRESS
GP
12:00,2:15,4:30,6:45,9:00

MATINEE SCREENINGS BEFORE 5:00 P.M. - P80.00 - MON. - FRI.

star group of cinemas movie guide
IN DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND

starmall EDSA-SHAW
Tel No. 726.61.50
3 Alexander
4 National Treasure
5 Bcuz of U

METROPOLIS ALABANG
Tel. No. 850.42.85
1 Minsan Pa
2 Nakaw na Sandali
3 Alexander
4 Bcuz of U
5 National Treasure
6 Polar Express

starmall LA BIMA
Tel No 873 50.04
1 Out of Reach
2 Bcuz of U

Everyday Family Day! @ Metropolis Cinema
Get Free Toms World Tokens for every ticket purchase

For movie schedules visit www.clickthecity.com

THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1
BRIDGET JONES 2
11:35, 1:55, 4:15, 6:35, 9:00
PG13

CINEMA 2
ALEXANDER
10:25, 1:50, 5:20, 8:50
R13

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA • 7224496

MUSIC MUSEUM
DECEMBER 10 & 11 KATYA "HIPO" 8:30PM
DECEMBER 17 & 18 "PENISTALKS" - The Repeat 8:30PM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL: 721-6726 OR 721-0635

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 ALEXANDER
R-13/FS 11:30AM,3:00PM,6:30PM
LMF 10:00 PM

3 POLAR EXPRESS
GP/FS 11:30AM,2:00PM,4:30PM
LMF 10:00 PM

2 BRIDGET JONES : The Edge of Reason
PG-13/FS 11:45AM,2:15PM,4:45PM,7:15PM
LMF 9:45 PM

4 NATIONAL TREASURE
GP/FS 11:00AM,1:45PM,4:30PM
LMF 10:15 PM

PREMIERE THEATRE
THE INCREDIBLES
GP/FS 11:30AM,2:00PM,4:30PM,7:00PM,LMF 9:30PM

Regular Ticket Prices
- Cinema 1 to 4 P150
- Premiere Theatre P295 (includes limitless popcorn and drinks)

Shangri-La Plaza

Enjoy our Screen Specials
Pay 20% less on Matinee Shows except on selected blockbuster movies
From Monday to Friday Matinee Shows before 4 p.m.
For more details, please see him listing at the Shang Cineplex ticket booths or call 633-2227 or 633-7851 local 171.
Promo Period: December 1-24, 2004
Per DTI-NCR Permit No.A3-647, Series of 2004

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE — MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	KERIDA / SUKDULAN
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	SUGAT
B	CLOSED
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA 1 2 3 & 4	ALEXANDER / BRIDGET JONES / POLAR EXPRESS / NATIONAL TREASURE
PREMIERE THEATRE	THE INCREDIBLES

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	SAW
CINEMA-2	NAKAW NA SANDALI
CINEMA-3	NATIONAL TREASURE
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	POLAR EXPRESS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-6	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-7	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-8	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	BRIDGET JONES 2
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ALEXANDER
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SEED OF CHUCKY
CINEMA-12	HELLWOLF
CINEMA-14	PA SIYAM
CINEMA-15	BCUZ OF U

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

(LAS PINAS)	BUHAY NG SUPREMACY
CINEMA-1	FENG SHUI
CINEMA-2	SECRET WINDOW
CINEMA-4	BANGKOK HAUNTED 2

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELOA

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE
MOVIEWORLD
CINEMA ACCESS
635-5555
FOR ALL BRANCHES
www.robinsonsmovieworld.com
MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

• METRO MANILA CINEMAS •

GALLERIA — 632-9115/16

1 ALEXANDER • THX 11:40 3:00 6:20 9:40	6 NATIONAL TREASURE 10:40 1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00
2 ALEXANDER 12:10 3:30 6:50 10:10	7 THE INCREDIBLES 11:40 2:10 4:40 7:10 9:40
3 SEED OF CHUCKY 11:35 1:40 3:45 6:50 7:55 10:00	8 HELLWOLF 10:45 1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00
4 PA-SIYAM 10:45 1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00	9 THE POLAR EXPRESS 11:10 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00
5 BRIDGET JONES 2 10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00	10 BCUZ OF U 11:45 2:20 4:55 7:30 10:00

ERMITA — 536-7809 to 12

1 PA-SIYAM 10:35 12:50 3:05 5:20 7:35 9:50	
2 HELLWOLF 1:05 3:15 5:25 7:35 9:50	5 NATIONAL TREASURE 1:35 4:10 6:45 9:40
3 ALEXANDER 2:40 6:05 9:40	6 BRIDGET JONES 2 10:15 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
4 SEED OF CHUCKY 10:15 12:15 2:15 4:20 6:25 8:25 10:00	7 RESERVE

METRO EAST — 682-8193/99 • 682-8280

1 BCUZ OF U 10:20 12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:10	5 NATIONAL TREASURE 10:55 1:50 4:45 7:40 10:30
2 HELLWOLF 10:50 12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00	6 SEED OF CHUCKY 10:30 12:05 3:00 5:15 7:30 10:00
3 BRIDGET JONES 2 10:30 1:10 3:50 6:30 9:10	7 ALEXANDER 12:40 4:00 7:20 10:30
4 THE INCREDIBLES 11:00 1:30 4:00 6:30 9:00	8 PA-SIYAM 10:25 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

NOVALICHES — 935-3229/31

1 ALEXANDER 10:40 1:50 5:00 8:15	5 BRIDGET JONES 2 11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 8:55
2 NATIONAL TREASURE 10:30 1:00 3:30 6:00 8:30	6 THE POLAR EXPRESS 10:45 1:05 3:30 5:55 8:20
3 PA-SIYAM 11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 8:55	7 SEED OF CHUCKY 11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 8:55
4 BCUZ OF U 10:30 1:00 3:30 6:00 8:30	8 THE INCREDIBLES 10:30 1:00 3:15

MOVIE Delights
Frito Lay
• Purchase any of the Frito Lay products (Lay's, Doritos, Lay's Stax, Cheetos and Ruffles) with Promo Sticker
• Present the empty promo packs at the ticket booth and pay only P50.00 on Premier Prepaid Card
One (1) Promo Pack = One (1) Discounted Premier Ticket
Maximum redemption of two (2) tickets only per visit.
See Promo Posters for more details
Lay's Doritos Lay's Stax Cheetos
promo period:
NOVEMBER 15 to DECEMBER 15, 2004

PIONEER — 687-5378

1 ALEXANDER 10:30 1:50 5:10 8:30	3 NATIONAL TREASURE 12:05 2:55 5:45 8:45
2 BRIDGET JONES 2 11:40 2:00 4:20 6:40 9:00	4 THE POLAR EXPRESS 11:40 2:00 4:20 6:40 9:00

Citisquare MALABON — 288-0985 / 2575

1 TAXI 12:00 2:55 5:50 8:45	3 BCUZ OF U 11:10 1:30 3:50 6:10 8:30
2 THE INCREDIBLES 11:10 1:30 3:50 6:10 8:30	4 DARKNESS 11:45 1:55 4:05 6:15 8:30

CAINTA — 240-4851

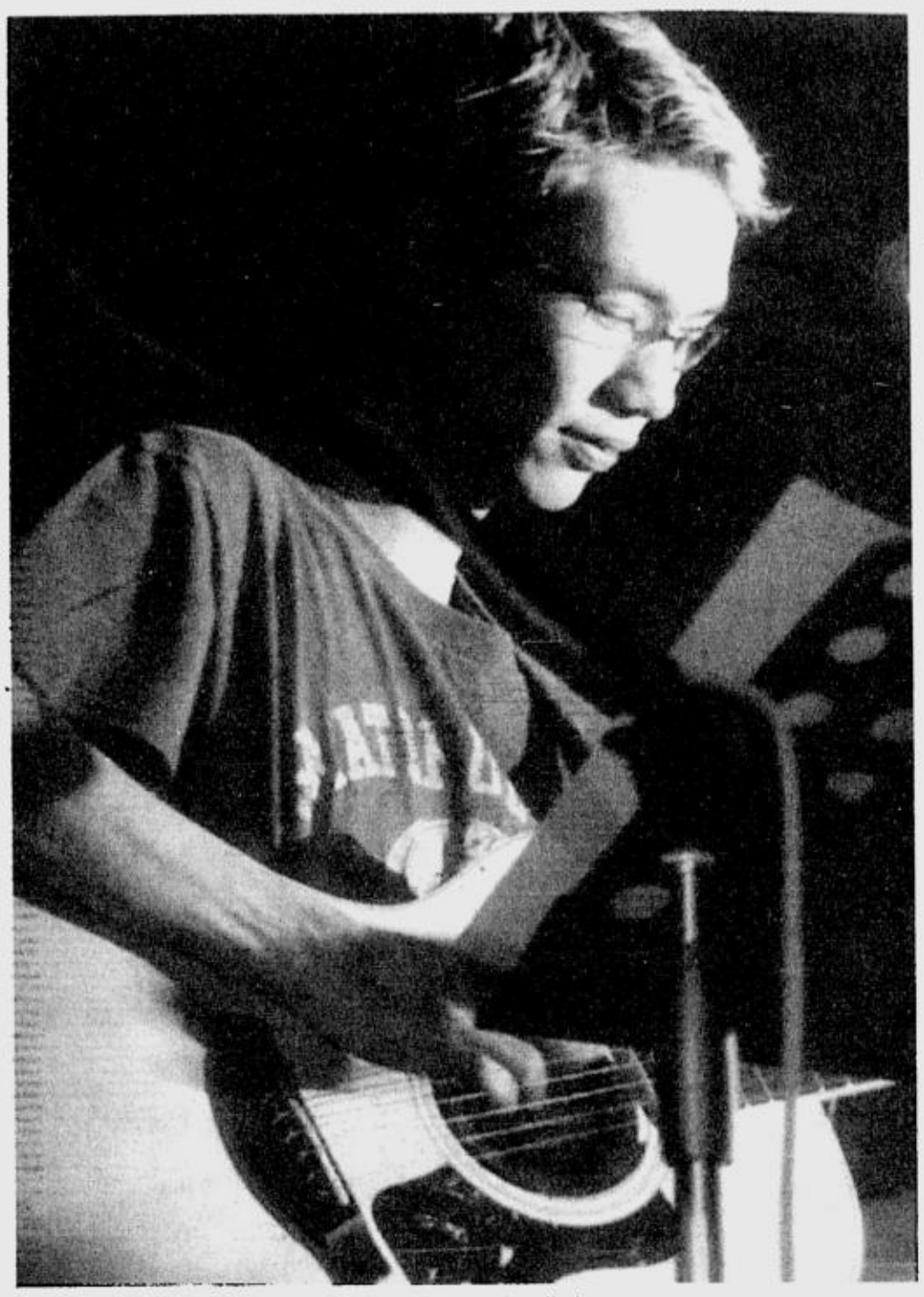
1 NATIONAL TREASURE 11:15 2:10 5:05 8:00	3 PA-SIYAM 11:30 1:50 4:10 6:30 8:50
2 ALEXANDER 10:35 1:55 5:15 8:35	4 BRIDGET JONES 2 12:10 2:50 5:30 8:10

The Perfect Gift All Year Round
A Pre Paid Movie Pass to the Hottest Seats in town.
Get Special discounts for volume purchases!
For marketing and events/reservations please call:
Marketing Services Department at 687-7945 to 47 locals 14 and 15

ENTERTAINMENT Metro

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback: inquirer ent name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)



"MR. ACOUSTIC" was going elsewhere when music called.

Free beer would have done it

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

Paolo Santos never expected fame and fortune when he started singing

WHEN "Mr. Acoustic" Paolo Santos started his singing career, fame and fortune were the farthest things from his mind. No, he had a most uncommon motivation for performing back then: free beer. The 29-year-old never had any formal music training. A former yuppie, he left the corporate world happily when he felt he was connecting with people with his brand of music.

"I was drinking with my *barkada* from the office," relates the lanky musician. "One of them said, '*Marunong ka palang kumanta* (So you know how to sing)! I have a friend who owns a bar. If you play there, we can get free drinks!'"

The singer-songwriter claims he is just a regular person who loves performing. Paolo was one of last year's most recognized guitar-wielding troubadours who made a mark in the music industry. Yet the show biz aspect of the job unsettles him still.

Hates makeup

"I have not gotten used to pictorials. I hate the makeup. I just like playing live—it's absolutely one of the best things on earth for me."

Paolo's covers of Stevie Wonder's "Overjoyed" and PM's "Moonlight Over Paris" have resounded nicely with new listeners. He has actually gotten feedback from an original artist he borrowed a tune from: "I did 'Sunlight' by folk artist Michael Tomlinson. He e-mailed me and congratulated me, saying he was really flattered. I just assured him that all the royalties would be paid."

But he feels that doing his own renditions of previously released songs definitely has its limits. "Rap is out of the question," he says, smiling.

His love for music began when he was a boy, as his father's affinity for audible gems rubbed off on him. "Dad *ko kasi maraming* vinyl records *sa bahay* (My dad has a lot of vinyl records at home). He encouraged me to listen to the Beatles and James Taylor. I loved it, and got used to listening to really old music," he says.

Economics degree

Before the stage beckoned, Paolo recounts, he was going in an entirely different direction. "I have an Economics degree from De La Salle University. I wanted to work for the United Nations. I went to Geneva for further studies. I was 22 back then."

The lure of music proved too strong to resist. Fortunately it resulted in acclaim and commercial success.

His second album, released last month, contains all-original material. This allowed him to fully exercise his creative muscles, he says happily.

In only over a year, he has learned one significant truth about the music business. "There's always compromise, whether you like it or not. There's a need to satisfy your audience; that's the whole point. But there's a need to satisfy yourself, too, and the record producers. How an artist balances these determines his survival in the industry. Now, at least, record companies trust artists, and don't dictate too much."

Paolo admits that having a wide range of listeners makes him extremely grateful and, well, overjoyed. Sometimes it's daunting, he says, considering that onstage, his words can be highly influential. "I'm sharing a big chunk of myself with kids, sometimes people in their 50s. *Kuha naman nilang lahat* (But they all get it)."

Striking while the iron is hot

By Remy Umerez
Contributor

ANGEL Locsin is one busy girl.

She appears in movies and on television, endorses beauty-care products, and does out-of-town shows which are plenty during the Christmas season.

But she is only 19. Why is she working so hard?

"Just striking while the iron is hot," Angel says, smiling. "I have bills to pay. I recently bought a condo unit and a brand-new car. The condo is my sanctuary. The car is a necessity, and I hope I can soon drive it myself. I have a driver and a maid. But I enjoy what I'm doing, so it's okay."

She tapes "Mulawin" three times a week. Her closeness with teen actor Richard Gutierrez has delighted many fans who consider them the love team to beat.

Friends, lovers

"They say we have chemistry," Angel muses. "Beyond that, I cannot tell. He is a dear friend, caring and solicitous. We can read each other's mind. But love? My main priority is my career. But the fans like Richard very much. I like him a lot, too, because he is a gentleman."

From the winged characters they play in "Mulawin," Richard and Angel are now cast on the big screen as lovers in the horror thriller, "Sigaw."

"I play his extremely jealous girlfriend," Angel says. "Iza Calzado asks for Richard's help in the movie, and I go mad. I fight with him all the time, until eerie things start happening to me. I was drawn to the movie because I know that director Yam Laranas is good. I saw the movie he directed with Richard Gomez and Regine Velasquez."

Christmas wish

Angel is about to shoot another movie, "Let The Love Begin," which marks the return of GMA 7 to movie production. This one has a Valentine 2005 play date, and to ensure double bankability, it also has the love team of Mark Herras and Jennylyn Mercado, according to Wilma Galvante, senior vice president for entertainment.

ANGEL Locsin

Sleep—lots and lots of it—is Angel's wish for this Christmas. Also, she wants to be able to enroll next year in a course on Criminology. She explains: "I watched 'Ms. Congeniality' and fell in love with the role played by Sandra Bullock, a female FBI agent disguised as a beauty candidate."

"Sigaw" is Angel's fourth movie and her first horror picture. She appeared previously in "Mano Po 2," "Kuya," and "Singles." She started out earlier as a model, then joined the cast of "Click," GMA's youth-oriented show.

A thought from a non-reader.

A mind on the blink can be a real turn-off. If you need a bit of stimulation, try reading for a change. Just a thought.

Read more. Be more.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

■ 2bU! / D1
2bU! makeover magic

■ Business / B1
Fitch spares RP from rating downgrade

■ Across / A17
Illegal logging area found in Quezon park

■ News / A2
Senators hunt for GMA's P665-M intel funds

■ Sports / A28
Tour Pilipinas bans Tanguilig, Reynante, et al.

Tanong ng Bayan / A7
Salot ng illegal logging, bakit hindi masugpo?

Win a 21" TV. Text 2910, watch INQ TV!

'Defective' PMA topnotcher not useless, may be 'repaired'

By Fe Zamora

IF HE were a kitchen appliance, the Philippine Military Academy topnotcher recently sent home in disgrace for alleged shoplifting at Fort Benning in the United States is not yet entirely useless.

DEFECTIVE/ A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

High fuel, power rates push inflation rate to 7.6%

By Michelle V. Remo, Christine O. Avendaño and Doris C. Dumlao

THE SHARP rise in the cost of electricity and fuel pushed inflation in November to its five-year high of 7.6 percent, the National Statistics Office reported yesterday.

Consumer prices are expected to further

HIGH/ A22

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Wednesday, December 8, 2004 ★★★ 94 pages / 10 sections / Vol. 19 / No. 364 P18

website: www.inq7.net

Poll shames solons on pork

54 percent of Pinoys want fund reduced

CONTRARY to the claims of members of the House of Representatives, most Filipinos are against the graft-ridden pork barrel, results of a survey conducted by a private polling firm showed.

Pulse Asia Inc. said yesterday that 84 percent of Filipinos were in favor of either cutting or abolishing the pork barrel, officially called the Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF).

"Fifty-four percent say the pork barrel funds should be merely reduced and not totally eliminated, while 30 percent think that pork barrel should be removed," Pulse Asia research fellow Emmanuel de Dios said in a statement. Only 16 percent favored retaining the pork at its current level.

De Dios noted that opposition to the pork barrel was most pronounced in Metro Manila, where 46 percent called for its elimination.

The survey—which covered 1,200 respondents nationwide—was conducted from Oct. 22 to Nov. 6.

"The majority call for merely reducing rather than totally eliminating the pork barrel appears to be a pragmatic compromise that takes into account two opinions: on the one hand, there is prevalent opinion that a good deal of legislators' projects go to corruption, but on the other hand, there is a still widespread belief that it is a legislator's duty to deliver projects and programs to his constituents," said De Dios.

Various sectors have been seek-

POLL/ A22

THE HUNGRY, the homeless, and the needy of Gabaldon, Nueva Ecija, wait for the gates of San Pablo Church to open to get their share of relief goods set for distribution. REM ZAMORA

Gov't now allows logging in privately owned lands

By Volt Contreras

THREE days after Malacañang suspended all logging activities following the killer floods and landslides in Luzon, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources yesterday announced that the mass cutting and transport of timber in "private plantations" could continue.

What was initially reported as President Macapagal-Arroyo's suspension of all logging activities was, in effect, relaxed, freeing commercial operations in privately owned lands that, according to the DENR, account for around 2 million hectares (or 28 percent) of the Philippines' current forest cover.

The suspension now applies only to logging operations in public forest lands, including areas managed by state-sanctioned logging concessionaires as well as patches abused by illegal loggers.

Environment Secretary Michael Defensor issued this "clarification" in a press conference yesterday following a meeting with Ms Arroyo.

"The President said—and this exactly jibes with our advocacy—that those who plant [trees] in private plantations will be allowed to transport their harvest. But in all the rest [of the areas], all movements should stop," Defensor said, adding:

"I immediately called up the [local DENR officials] concerned and I told them that I'm issuing an order to allow the private plantations to harvest and cut."

But regional and provincial forestry officials are also required to check whether the intended timber harvests are actually within private plantations before they issue permits to cut or transport, Defensor said.

Asked why, after issuing a blanket suspension order, Mala-

GOV'T/ A8

DSWD clean out of funds for relief operations

By Dona Pazzibugan

PEOPLE like Severina Espedero of General Nakar must have been on the mind of Corazon "Dinky" Soliman when the social welfare secretary told the Senate she was running out of funds and needed up to P70 million more to sustain relief operations.

Soliman said that to continue services to the tens of thousands still homeless or displaced, her department needed "between 50 to 70 million pesos for relief operations."

However, Senate finance committee chair Manuel Villar said that Congress was helpless to allocate additional money at this time and recommended Soliman get the money from the special presidential discretionary fund.

Which would be of big help to typhoon victims like Espedero who had nothing left but the clothes she was wearing.

Her home and everything she owned was buried under a sea of mud in General Nakar, one of the towns in Quezon province devas-

DSWD/ A21

THE HAPPY packer: This nun is unfazed by the endless work of repacking goodies at a Camp Aguinaldo warehouse for distribution to typhoon victims. BULLIT MARQUEZ/AP

11TH-HOUR JOURNEY

Community-based forest management last option

By Sylvia L. Mayuga
Contributor

(Last of two parts)

MOST Filipinos have never seen, loved or lived in a forest. Strange, when from it come water, oxygen, medicine, timber and food. It buffers human habitations from typhoons and protects them from floods, meanwhile providing a sense of well-being only God's breath in Nature can give. After close to four centuries as a colony and decades of exchanging a young republic's life sources for the pittance of cash, a merciless deadline is upon us.

First to sniff this deadline in the wind were scientists, artists, visionaries and the young. Since that historic awakening in the '70s, mountaineering, spelunking, diving, kayaking and birdwatching have grown apace with the environmental movement. Their costs are prohibitive for the general run of Filipinos, but from those who can pursue them have emerged passionate conservationists worth their weight in gold.

Government has been largely a clueless parent before this youthful surge, another hard reality named in the conference. Besides eminent corruptibility, our Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has been formally trained for exploitation, not conservation, of

COMMUNITY-BASED/ A4

Filipino among 9 dead in Jeddah terror attack

By TJ Burgonio and Christine O. Avendaño

ROMEO de la Rosa, 44, from Tondo, had been working at the US consulate in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, for 12 years.

On Monday, he took a bullet in the head, the ninth Filipino to die in the Middle East since American troops invaded Iraq last year.

Described by a Philippine official as an "all-around maintenance man" at the consulate, De la Rosa was among 9 people killed when militants, lobbing explosives and claiming to have links to the al-Qaida network, stormed the heavily guarded US diplomatic mission, triggering a gun battle with Saudi security forces.

The Saudi wing of al-Qaida claimed responsibility for the brazen attack that showed it still posed a threat to the world's top oil exporter.

The attack was the first against a Western diplomatic mission in Saudi Arabia and first major strike in six months by militants bent on overthrowing the ruling family and driving Westerners from the birthplace of Islam.

The circumstances of De la Rosa's death were unclear but some of the consulate staff wounded in the broad daylight attack told Reuters that the militants had tried to use them as human shields.

"We have identified his body. We just came from the morgue 20 minutes ago," Philippine Ambassador Bahnarim Guinomla said on radio yesterday.

FILIPINO/ A20

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2004

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

Text us your feedback: Inquirer news name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Bicol region, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers becoming frequent over the eastern sections of Visayas and Mindanao. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy with rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/12/08/04

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

New Nida witness a 'breakthrough'

By Philip C. Tubeza

A POSSIBLE new witness in the brutal murder of Nida Blanca saw the actress' husband Rod Lawrence Strunk put the "unconscious" Blanca inside her car, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said yesterday.

Gonzalez said in a press conference that the possible witness claimed she saw Strunk and another person transfer Blanca from a van into her car, a Nissan Sentra, before she was found dead in the vehicle.

"This could really be a breakthrough. If what she is saying is true, she will be a strong witness," the justice secretary said yesterday.

He added that the witness was expected to appear before the Department of Justice later this week or early next week.

"I want to talk to her personally... I will cross-examine her to test her credibility," Gonzalez said.

He added that the witness was new and he would have to talk to her first before turning her over to the police and the National Bureau of Investigation.

He said a "go-between" came to his office and informed him about a woman who was willing to testify. However, the witness was confined in the hospital, thus postponing her trip to the DOJ.

Gonzalez earlier admitted that government evidence in the murder case was only circumstantial and that this would further delay the filing of a second extradition petition against Strunk, the principal accused who has fled to the United States.

Blanca (Dorothy Jones in real life) was found stabbed dead inside her car at the Atlanta Center building in San Juan on Nov. 7, 2001.

The government has charged Strunk and Philip Medel Jr. for Blanca's murder before the Pasig City Regional Court.

Gonzalez said he had ordered prosecutors to review evidence in the case and told them to strengthen it further.

He said that although the government only had circumstantial evidence, it could still get a conviction if the evidence were presented convincingly before the Pasig court.

Senators hunt for GMA pork

By Michael Lim Ubac

UNDER which shell is President Macapagal-Arroyo hiding her pork barrel?

At the Senate hearing yesterday on the proposed P2.3-billion budget for the Office of the President for 2005, administration Senators Manuel Villar and Rodolfo Biazon were surprised to learn the outlay did not contain an allocation for the President's intelligence fund.

Baffled by the glaring omission, Villar, chair of the Senate finance committee, and Biazon, chair of the congressional oversight committee on intelligence funds, demanded answers from Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita.

Villar told Ermita and his senior and deputy secretaries who were at the hearing that the OP's intelligence fund had always been separately funded by Congress "for all to see."

"I cannot locate any information on the intel funds," Biazon said.

Ermita himself was taken aback by Biazon's statement.

After making some queries of his staff, he then admitted that about P665 million had been earmarked for the President's intelligence fund, but this was included under Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses, or MOOE, in the OP budget, specifically under "confidential, intelligence, extra and miscellaneous expenses."

Ermita said the categorization was done by the Department of Budget and Management.

Biazon reminded Ermita the usual practice was to treat the intelligence fund as separate and distinct in the national budget. He said the process of liquidating MOOEs was different from that for intelligence funds and miscellaneous expenses.

"I have been fighting for [so] long to increase the intel funds of the AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines) and the PNP (Philippine National Police) because they are at the forefront of security for the country. I raise a question why the military, the whole AFP, will only have P72 million in intel funds and the PNP only a little over P100 million, and here we have the OP [with] P665 million?" Biazon said.

But Ermita justified the amount by saying that about P500 million would be used for the operations of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Commission and only P150 million would be retained by the OP.

He said the President, being the commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces, could allocate portions of her intelligence fund to agencies concerned.

But Biazon stressed that agencies charged with securing the country "must have a free hand" in accessing the budget.

Biazon then told Ermita that, as he had done during the Estrada administration—which was given P500 million in intelligence funds—he would suggest in plenary amending the OP's budget proposal, "meaning give the security agencies the funds that (they) need."

The senator estimated that the total confidential, intelligence, extraordinary and miscellaneous expenses of the OP could even reach P772 million. He did not elaborate, however.

At this point, Villar suggested Ermita just ask the DBM to redo the proposal.

Ermita agreed but said that having the intelligence fund under the MOOE would give the President "flexibility."

"After all, as we always say, the commander-in-chief is responsible for the accomplishment of the mission that she had set for herself, including that of the armed services, and it is spelled out that the President, when there are problems that arise, will have to reallocate what is in the OP budget for intelligence," Ermita said.

"But we will ask the DBM to take a look at the senator's suggestion... to restudy the figures and see how we can reallocate some amounts, especially to the Armed Forces now that we are tasked to fight terrorism," he said.

Aside from the intelligence fund, the Office of the President has other discretionary funds—the social fund, calamity fund and other contingency funds tucked into the budgets of the departments and agencies concerned.

In a sense, Villar said, these were pork barrel allocations because they were hardly subject to audit, and could be disbursed at will by the President "as the situation arises."

In contrast, the hearing on the proposed P84-million budget for the office of Vice President Noli de Castro only took about 10 minutes.

CPW CONSUMER & OIL PRICE WATCH
Private Sector

A Message to Our Consumers - Part 3

Thank you for your support & understanding

We thank you for understanding our support for increases in the prices of basic services to reflect their true cost. And our stand to have new revenue measures to prevent a fiscal crisis and, thus, prevent a situation like Argentina's.

The pain is ours too - to see consumers bear the additional increases at a time when they can hardly make both ends meet.

ON THE ISSUE OF PRICES OF BASIC COMMODITIES

- We thank the President for assigning Vice President Noli de Castro to lead the campaign to keep prices of basic commodities at reasonable levels during the Christmas holidays when prices normally rise, even without the aggravating effect of the recent series of typhoons.
- It is refreshing to see a ranking public official take a hands-on look at price increases and see what can be done to make them reasonable and for this purpose communicate to the public the steps taken by the government and the private sector in the National Price Coordinating Council.

ON THE ISSUE OF COMPUTING OIL PRICES

- There definitely will be a rollback in the prices of gasoline and possibly diesel, as world crude prices have dropped in November compared to October by $2.67 for Dubai crude, by $2.28 for MOPS gasoline and by $1.70 for diesel.
- Since diesel is subsidized by gasoline pricing, we will have to determine first the final under-recovery of diesel.
- The COPW is meeting with the Senior Officials of Petron, Shell, Caltex, Total and the New Players to reconcile once and for all the disparities in the manner oil price increases/decreases are computed as well as the under and over recoveries in oil prices from January to November 2004.
- OVERALL, THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT OIL PRICES MAY GO DOWN DURING DECEMBER TO MARCH 2005 since demand for heating oil will be lower than earlier feared because of an expected mild winter in the US and Europe as reflected in a one-day steep drop of Dubai crude by $2.65 amid panic-selling by brokers.

We commit to the public and the consumers to demand full transparency in all existing government contracts and projects to prevent a repetition of the sins of the past.

ON THE ISSUE OF NAPOCOR

- Napocor required a power rate increase of P1.87 per kilowatt hour (kwh) to attain a return on rate base of 8%. However, the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) granted 98 centavos, leaving a balance of 89 centavos.
- This resulted in a loss of P8 billion from October to December 2004. Please note, however, that the longer the remaining rate increase is delayed, the more consumers will have to pay later on.
- The COPW spoke with ERC Chairman Rodolfo Albano on Napocor's second rate increase. He told us he will hold a final public hearing on December 16th after which ERC will decide on the merits of the Napocor rate increase.

EXPECTED BENEFITS FOR CONSUMERS

- Napocor's US $200-B debt, including interest, will be shouldered by the government. Therefore, the debt and interest will NO longer be included in Napocor's rate increase petition. Nor will it be reflected in our electricity bills.
- The COPW will determine from PSALM the expected profits from the sale of Napocor's power generating plants and the yearly income from the sale of the National Transmission Corporation (TRANSCO) to the private sector.
- We need to get this information for us to find out just when Napocor's debts would be fully paid and when PSALM, a government agency, would distribute the profits to the public in terms of lower electricity rates to consumers.

As we celebrate Christmas and welcome the New Year, let's be optimistic, though cautiously, that things will turn out for the better. However, it is always best to prepare for the worst.

A public service message of:

CONCEPCION INDUSTRIES

RAUL T. CONCEPCION
Chairman

Text your comments to Hotline 0917-8103363
or call Direct Line 844-8785; Fax: 818-6203
E-mail: rtc@cil.com.ph

To better serve the public, this ad appears in major newspapers and tabloids.

'My term's extended and there's nothing you can do about it'

By Christian V. Esguerra

"MY TERM'S already extended and you can't do anything about it anymore."

This was Philippine National Police Director General Edgar Aglipay's response to top police officials' resolution condemning the practice of extending the term of service of retiring officers.

In the first place, the criticism did not cover the position of the PNP chief, Aglipay, a top beneficiary of the controversial practice, argued.

"When it comes to the choice of the PNP chief, it's solely the prerogative of the President," he told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

The position made public by the Association of Chiefs of Police of the Philippines Inc. (ACCPI) last Monday covered other PNP positions whose officials were sometimes given a term extension by the National Police Commission.

To appease officials grumbling over his term extension, Aglipay said he was ready to go after March 13, the end of the six-month tenure given to him by President Arroyo.

"I'm very thankful [of] the opportunity given to me by the President," he said. "That's why I have to do my best, to use every hour of my term. That's why I work 20 hours a day, and wear the uniform even on Sundays."

The assurance was also apparently meant to appease officials itching to get his post.

Aglipay's term extension virtually dashed the hopes of Deputy Director General Virtus Gil who will reach his mandatory retirement age of 56 on March 14, a day after Aglipay is expected to step down.

If chosen, Deputy Director General Reynaldo Velasco, the PNP's third in command, would have at least two months to serve. But that's if he gets appointed by the President.

Aglipay, Velasco and Gil all belong to the controversial Philippine Military Academy Class 1971. It also includes Sen. Panfilo Lacson, perennial coup plotter Gregorio Honasan, and Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia who is facing parallel civilian and military investigations for his unexplained wealth estimated at at least P143 million.

MASINLOC BIDDING

Solon questions power plant sale to RP-Aussie group

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

AN ADMINISTRATION lawmaker yesterday expressed grave doubts on the financial capability of a little-known Filipino-Australian consortium to make good its $561-million bid for the Masinloc coal power plant which President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has touted as a "landmark accomplishment."

Albay Rep. Joey Salceda said that, since financial capability was the sole prequalification for the bidding, he was surprised how a Filipino corporation with a paid-up capitalization of P600,000 (YNN Corp. owned by Sunny Sun) and its Australian partner with a market capitalization of only $10 million (Green Pacific Energy Ltd.) was allowed to bid for one of the government's most prized power plants.

Financial muscle

But Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) chief executive officer Raphael Lotilla told the INQUIRER that the government was confident that the YNN consortium had the financial muscle to carry out the deal. Lotilla claimed that the critics wanted the bidding to fail so that the government could put Masinloc on the auction block anew.

Salceda said he was dismayed that the government did not properly screen the bidders for Masinloc which only attracted two bidders as the top guns in the industry, led by Mirant Corp. and Korea Electric Power Corp., pulled out at the last minute.

He said the government might have felt the need to rush the bidding to make a good pitch to credit rating agencies that have warned the Philippines of a credit downgrade due to its lack of credibility in solving the fiscal crisis.

Salceda claimed that immediately after YNN-Green Pacific had won the bidding for the 600-megawatt coal power plant in Zambales last week, the consortium peddled the deal to other power companies and banks to come up with its bid that was more than what the government had anticipated.

"The Masinloc sale could turn out to be another 'embarrassing fiasco' if we are not careful. There appears to be serious lapses in procedural and substantial requirements. It's a bad oversight," Salceda said.

He said he would recommend to the President to put the project on a watch list and take remedial action to "save us from further loss of credibility."

But the government, however, quickly doused emerging doubts about the winning bidder's financial capacity. Based on documents furnished by the Australian company's investment banker, Credit Suisse First Boston, Lotilla said Green Pacific's parent, Great Pacific, had a controlling interest in the 24-megawatt Taixing Huangqiao coal-fired plant in China and mining interests in Australia.

Lotilla said the company's founder, Alfred Wong, held executive management positions in leading financial institutions and banks in Australia, such as the Capital Financial Group and State Bank NSW.

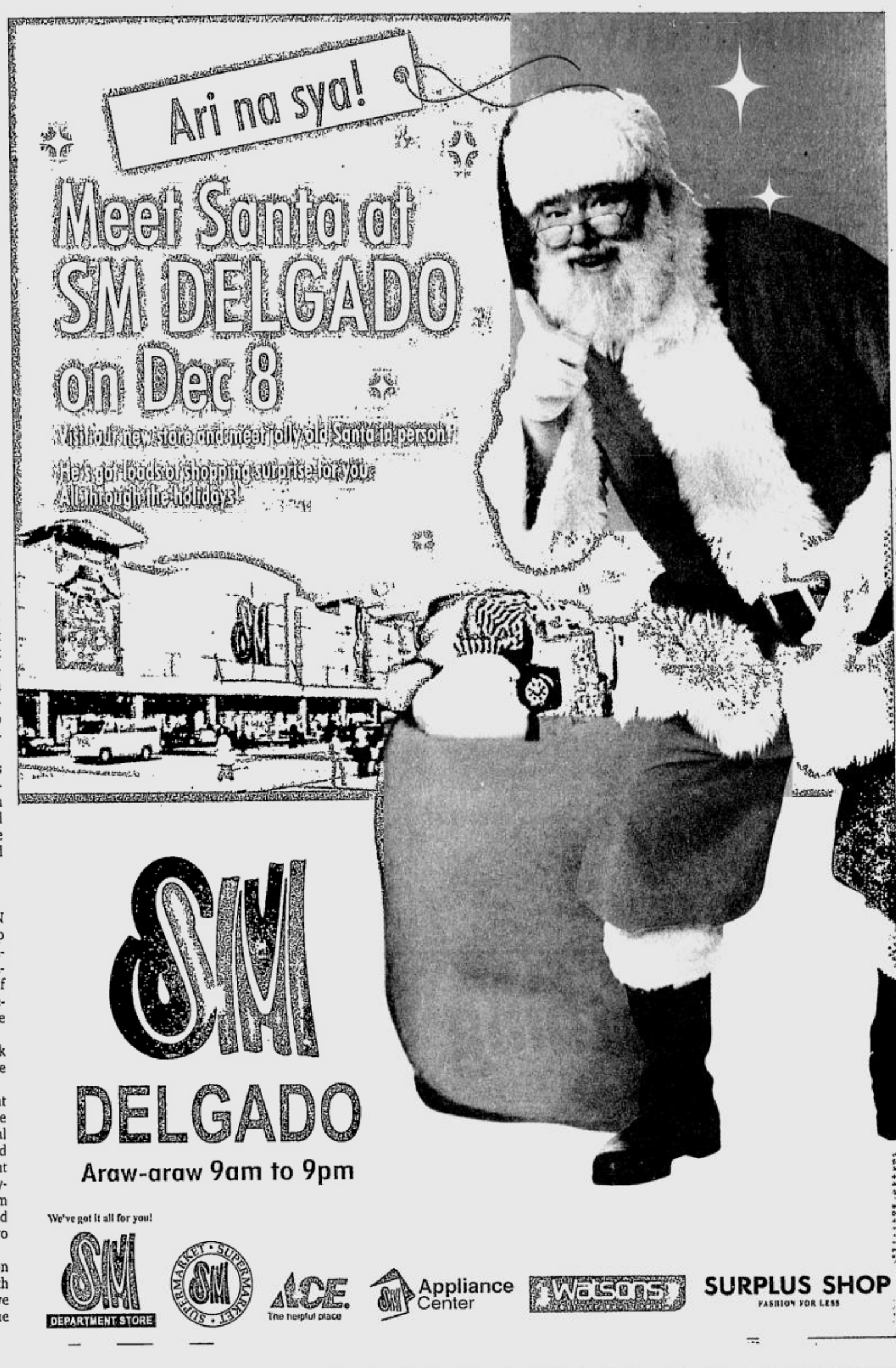
$9 million

Lotilla said that if the YNN consortium fails to come up with the money, the government would still gain $9 million from the standby letter of credit that all bidders were required to submit before the bidding.

"The bidders were asked to risk something even before they made a bid," he said.

Lotilla said the government had to wait for the consent of the multilateral creditors of National Power Corp. such as the World Bank and Asian Development Bank before taking the first payment from the YNN consortium (40 percent down payment and the balance payable in two years).

"We're putting pressure on multilaterals to proceed with privatization. We told them we did this without any help," he said.



"I love that LaserLight makes me feel a lot sexier."

Fely Ong
Businesswoman

"It's truly liberating that with LaserLight, I wouldn't have to deal with the pain and inconvenience of shaving or waxing ever again. I really love it!"

Jeanette Pumaren
Businesswoman

"I love LaserLight for being 100% effective. Now I can take on any role without the hassles of unwanted hair."

Isay Alvarez
Actress/Singer

Bare-able bikini lines. Silky-smooth and totally hair-free. LaserLight is FDA-approved for permanent reduction of unsightly, unwanted hair on your bikini lines and anywhere on your body. Call the Facial Care Centre professionals now for LaserLight.

What we love about LaserLight...

CALL 892-SKIN (7546) Where Beautiful Skin Happens
www.facialcarecentre.com.ph

MAKATI 15/F GT Tower
ORTIGAS 36/F Robinsons Equitable Tower
QUEZON CITY 3/F Cedar Exec. Bldg
SHAW 2/F Sunshine Square Plaza
ALABANG 3/F Citibank-Fraboille Bldg
BINONDO Unit G-1 City Plaza Tower
CONGRESSIONAL 2/F O Plaza Bldg
PAMPANGA TEL: 961-3404 3/F Don's Mktg. Bldg
CEBU TEL: 233-7631 Unit 1203 Keppel Centre

Community-based forest management last option

From page A1

primary wealth. Over the past two urgent decades, to the tune of multimillions in grant funds and soft loans, bureaucrats have signed up and made money with undeserving and downright crooked partners in community-based reforestation.

Lack of monitoring

Lack of monitoring multiplied losses—bad enough when grantees were making a quick buck with officials, worse when earnest project-holders were ignored. Now the "DENR can no longer ignore problems and wish they would go away; community-based forest management is the last remaining option," warned Code-NGO.

A major conference call was for a massive cleanup and reorientation of the DENR, requiring as close an examination of its record as the ongoing military shake-up. Too long has local government been a rubber stamp for reforestation projects dominated by Manila. Crisis compels the integration of forest protection with comprehensive land use plans, local knowledge and grass-roots "coalitions of the willing" right now.

'Rainforestation'

Putting his finger on a glaring fact in years of failure and wasted funds, La Salle professor Francisco Magno pointed a way out—local communities and LGUs tightly linked with centers of learning. "We don't need much money to protect the forest," he said. Partnership is more vital.

This could guard against perpetuating a major mistake as reforestation funds poured in the '80s and '90s—massive and ill-researched planting of fast-growing non-native trees. One of them, the gmelina, proceeded to "colonize" hundreds of hectares while vulnerable to local pests and diseases that could wipe out entire reforested areas. In Kalinga, farmers who planted gmelina saw their crops dying close to the exotic trees that made the soil acidic in the name of reforestation.

From that major error emerged a new theory in Leyte, a province traumatized by the Ormoc killer flood of 1991, with 18 percent of its forest cover left by its own logging elite and thousands of needy farmers. Dr. Patricia Milan of the Leyte State University put her doctorate in biology, vertebrate ecology and pest management to work. She would imitate the evolution of the original closed-canopy, high-diversity Philippine rainforest and its 3,000 known species.

New beginnings

On idle land, she planted fast-growing local "pioneer" trees like handang and anadyong. Then she planted apitong, lauaan and yakal—hardwoods to protect the pioneers and root crops planted in their gaps. Finally she planted durian, santol, mangosteen and marang. The root crops and modest income from the fruit trees could sustain farmers waiting for larger gains from a hardwood farm. Soon, "rainforestation" was born with endemic seeds and German funding. Antique, Bukidnon, Mindoro and Surigao are now adopting this "new" method reminiscent of wise Hanunoo Mangyan agriculture.

The success stories were all strikingly set in motion by crisis. Another one is set in regal Mt. Matutum, watershed of the old Maguindanao sultanate (present day South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat and General Santos) and headwaters of five rivers flowing out to Sarangani Bay. In the late '80s, 7,000 denuded hectares of Mt. Matutum drowned a foreign consultant working at the Dole Plantation in a flash flood that swept his vehicle off a bridge as it rushed through assembly line pineapple fields.

To showcase an "economic growth area" in the Fidel Ramos years, NGOs, local stakeholders business and government agencies began to craft a thorough conservation plan. A decade later, in-migration and timber poaching in Mt. Matutum have dropped dramatically. Fewer flash floods were followed by triumph in the past three flood-free years. "We don't need multi-millions in new infrastructure, only real tree planting," observed Daisy Fuentes, feisty governor of South Cotabato.

Community consultation

Closing gaps between research and experience, government and governed, was the common thread of new beginnings. Nueva Vizcaya, for instance, took a quantum leap with popular consultations under a sympathetic governor. These revealed how "the autocratic nature of governance exacerbates forest management problems." Change began in a new LGU campaign for the trust of upland constituents. Today, a people inspired by the weighty role of "stewardship" and a new designation as "managers" of the forest have earned a fighting chance for Nueva Vizcaya's own badly denuded watershed.

Community consultation also turned the key for the Maeng tribe in Tubo, Abra. Caught between the need to exploit their forests and tribal culture's strict rules for conservation, community spirit found a difficult middle road—strict priorities. Everyone agreed: rehabilitation of the watershed comes first; other resources can be exploited, but only on condition of automatic replenishment.

More hopeful experiences counterweighing the 11th hour will be available in the Haribon website early next year but now it was time to leave lessons in air-conditioned rooms for sermons in the wild.

Sermons in the wild

Driving through Subic Freeport, we silently thanked the Americans for returning this watershed to us largely intact. Wealthy weekend homes, hotel clusters, a first-rate road network and well-kept port facilities in today's Subic Bay Freeport became mere sociological notes in its fresh winds and subtle fragrances.

Here, undisturbed lowland dipterocarp and limestone forests descend to rich mangrove swamps and beach forests fringing Subic Bay. To the credit of Filipino leadership, a scientific inventory of the post-naval base has identified its 745 plant species (four rare, seven threatened), 83 bird species (almost 15 percent of the national total), 16 mangrove species, 201 fish species, 122 animal species (12 rare, 25 endangered), and 16 species of mammals.

The Philippine Giant Fruit Bat is one mammal celebrated as a hero in Haribon's new Subic "Gubat Learning Center." Also called "flying fox" for its large eyes, ears and snout, it's the only mammal capable of sustained flight—the world's largest known flying fox whose wingspan can stretch to two meters. The downside: it has a bad rep among orchard keepers and gardeners as an "incredible glutton" with a keen smell unerringly leading to ripening fruit as far as a hundred meters away. It's also blind as, well—a bat, constantly screeching as it navigates by echolocation, its own sound bouncing back from objects in its path.

Flying glutton

First sermon in the wild: you shoot bats; you kill the forest; you kill yourself.

This noisy, flying glutton is actually God's own forester, pollinating plants and trees farther and wider than most, dropping seeds in its fertilizing dung. The Apaliin Trails, a 3-kilometer trek from 100-meter elevations down to the sea, is proof of divine design. Alternating with soaring hardwoods are healthy green bamboo in artfully spaced clumps where bats defecating in flight once dropped them.

They're flying home to the forest as sunset approaches over the Triboa Mangrove Park. As the screeching fades, such stillness descends that you can almost hear this little-understood hardwood growing where Subic's inland waters flow out and mix with the salty bay. The silence is deceptive. Hidden fish and crustaceans furiously spawning in hidden root crevices and shallow mudflats are suddenly revealed by a thousand ripples in the mudflat, as air in their tiny burrows are displaced by waves.

Silence of the wild

Second sermon in the wild: silence is a powerful medium of life.

This silence is reflected in the eyes of the hunter-gatherer Ayta tribe to whom Subic is ancestral domain. What good fortune that the naval base command thought better than to displace them, hiring them instead to track intruders in vast grounds. They were given generous compensation with a fringe benefit—the exclusive right to scavenge saleable US scrap. This drove in a unique relationship, giving this diminutive aboriginal people a taste for First World hi-tech and the label "Amerayta."

Making history

This is fading from memory now in the new niches opened for the Ayta in changing times. In the early free port days, Dick Gordon contracted them as jungle tour guides, the beginning of today's thriving eco-tourism industry in Subic. At the tail end of the Felicito Payumo years last March, the Ayta made history as the first tribe to receive a Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title.

This time, a GPS survey assisted by the intrepid NGO PAFID complemented tribal measure of home—*abot-tanaw at abot-alaala* (as far as the eye can see and memory recall). The result: 4,355 hectares of original Ayta hunting grounds in upland forest down to the sea.

On the same day their title was awarded, this gentle tribe was also contracted to reforest 138 hectares at the Subic reserve border in Hermosa, Bataan, logged in the '60s allegedly by well-connected parties, before base security was tightened in the Vietnam War years. The area is now part of a buffer zone designated in a Protected Area Management Plan, a signal achievement of the Payumo years.

Best model

Don't look now but if Ayta luck fully harnesses ancestral memory of harmony with Nature, it may just come up with the best model for healing yet—another sermon in the wild to arrest a frightening 11th hour.

'Defective' PMA topnotcher not useless, may be 'repaired'

From page A1

Or at least that's what Lt. Gen. Generoso Senga, chief of the Philippine Army, thinks of 2nd Lt. Rolly Joaquin, valedictorian of the PMA's 2004 graduating class.

Senga said that "considering his potentials," Joaquin, 21, was "not totally doomed" and could still be "rehabilitated."

Lt. Gen. Crisolito Balaoing, PMA superintendent, holds a similar view: Like a product still covered by a warranty, Joaquin can be "returned" to the PMA for "repair."

"If a product is defective, then you improve the factory," Balaoing said. "But if 90 percent of the products are defective, then we close the factory."

But what to do with Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, a 1971 PMA graduate and former military comptroller under trial in civilian and military courts for amassing P143 million in unexplained wealth?

"If a product conks out 10 years [later], it's not a factory defect anymore," Balaoing said, suggesting that the country's premier military academy should not be blamed for the errant behavior of its graduates.

But Joaquin will have to face the consequences of trying to make off with a CD with a switched price tag at a commissary in Fort Benning, Georgia, Senga said.

System failure

He said that depending on the decision of the Armed Forces' Efficiency and Separations Board, Joaquin could be demoted or dismissed from the service.

"What happened to Joaquin is an indicator that there is a failure in the system," Balaoing admitted.

According to Balaoing, the PMA is finalizing a new program that integrates character development into all aspects of the cadets' four-year stay at the academy.

He said the goal is to produce a well-rounded cadet: "What is the use of having a good student in engineering, in English, in social science, if there is something wrong in his character?"

A report from the Joint United States Military Assistance Group (Jusmag) said Joaquin had removed a $.50 discount tag from a CD that was on sale and affixed it to another CD priced at $12.

He was caught in the act by a surveillance camera at a commissary of the US Army Infantry School, where he was a student officer, Army spokesperson Maj. Bartolome Bacarro had said, quoting from the Jusmag report received on Oct. 26.

Joaquin was taking an Infantry Officers Basic Course at Fort Benning, which was part of the Jusmag award given him on his graduation from the PMA in March. He was to have finished the course this month.

The young officer is confined to quarters at Fort Bonifacio, where he was taken upon his return to the country on Oct. 28.

If probable cause is established, he could face a court-martial, Bacarro had said.

Correction

IN THE story "'Mercy ship' conks out in high seas off Quezon" (Dec. 7, Page A1), it was not the "mercy ship" Grandstar 2 that conked out but the outrigger boat that was carrying 40 volunteers on their way to Mauban, Quezon, from Real town on Sunday after delivering relief goods to calamity victims. Grandstar 2 had brought the volunteers and relief goods to Real on Saturday morning.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to Gerry Lirio, city editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City; fax Nos. 897-4793/94; e-mail addresses:glirio@inquirer.com.ph and daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Raul Palabrica, readers' advocate, the same address and fax numbers as those of the city editor, and e-mail address:rpalabrica@inquirer.com.ph.

Failing to tax telcos, solons eye VAT-exempt lawyers, docs

By Carlito Pablo

CONGRESSMEN are looking to do away with value-added tax (VAT) exemptions, particularly for professionals like doctors and lawyers.

The review of the VAT system, with the aim of raising the tax rate from the current 10 percent to 12 percent, has been identified as a priority measure following the shelving of the proposed franchise tax on telecommunication companies.

Rep. Joey Salceda (Lakas-Kampi, Albay), chair of the House committee on economic affairs, said removing VAT exemptions and adjusting the tax rate would generate P14 billion for the government.

"If government needs to raise revenues, the efficient way is to increase the VAT and remove exemptions like those enjoyed by lawyers," Salceda said.

He said the VAT provides "horizontal equity," meaning it does "not single out a sector but is shared by all sectors across the economy."

Majority Leader Rep. Prospero Nograles (Lakas, Davao City) said the House would "work overtime" to approve the VAT bill as soon as the ways and means committee releases its report.

Nograles said ways and means committee chair Rep. Jesli Lapus (NPC, Tarlac) had promised to release the report next week.

Blocked

There had been previous attempts to lift the VAT exemption of lawyers and doctors, but the two professional groups had been able to block legislation.

Rep. Salacnib Baterina (Lakas, Ilocos Sur) has filed House Bill No. 3105 providing for the withdrawal of certain VAT exemptions.

"It is unfortunate that the full benefits from the VAT cannot be realized in view of the many exemptions that had been granted to various sectors of the economy," Baterina said.

Currently exempted from VAT are, among other things, the sale, importation and printing of books, as well as the importation of passenger and cargo vessels of more than 5,000 tons.

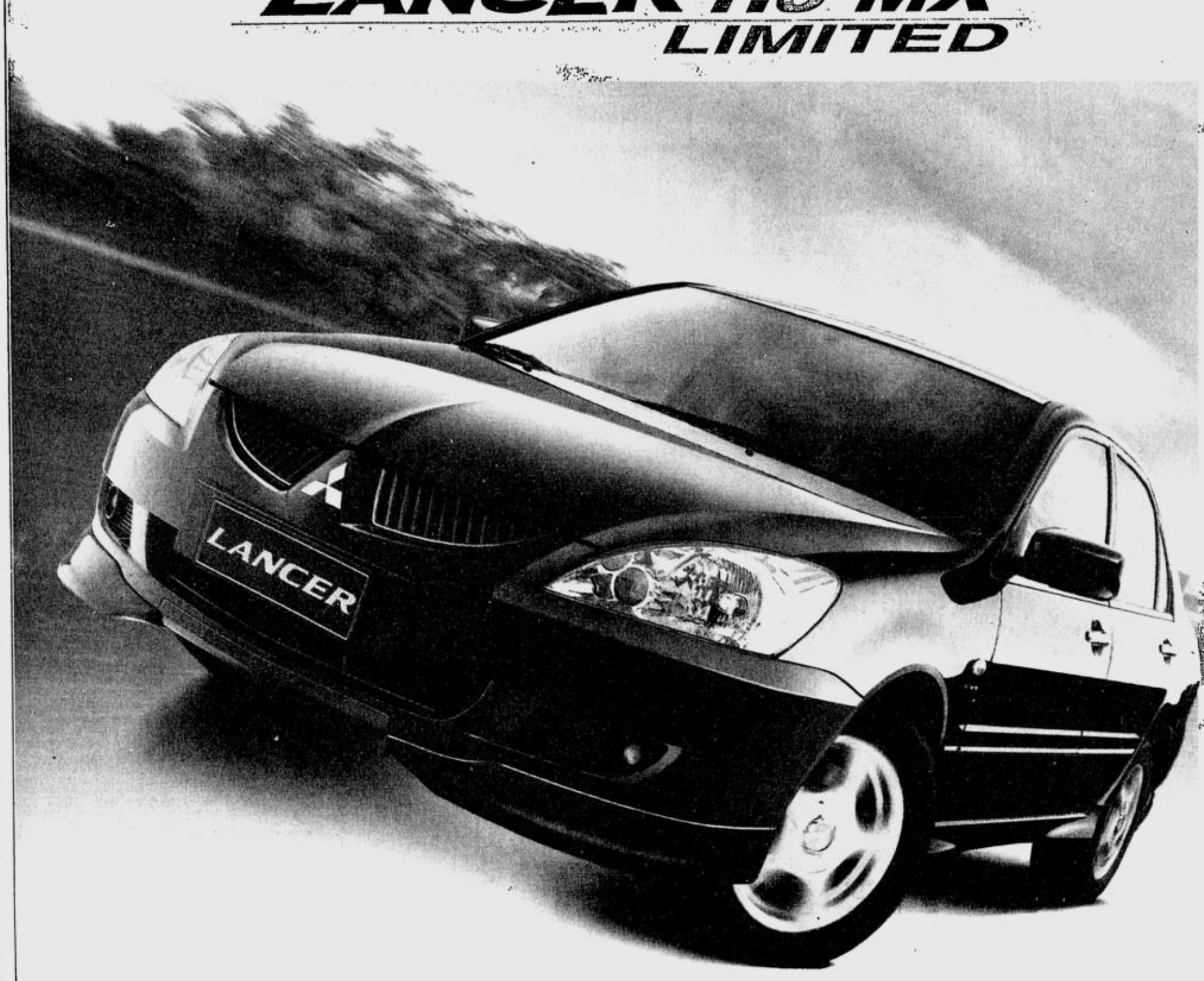
The sale and importation of coal, natural gas and petroleum products are also VAT-exempt.

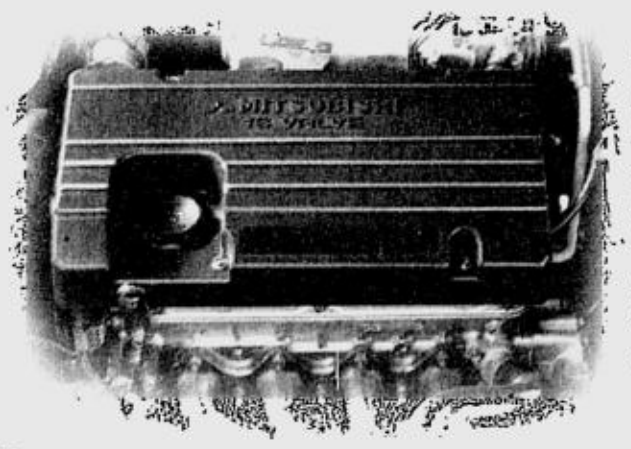
"Any exemption from VAT is a distortion in the system and a break in the VAT chain upon which lies the self-policing mechanism of the VAT," Baterina said.

Rep. Exequiel Javier (Lakas, Antique) said that, instead of a franchise tax, telecom firms will raise the VAT they pay.

"The VAT bill is a better proposal than the franchise tax since it is not reasonable to penalize the telecommunications industry simply because it is making money," Javier said.

Introducing the Mitsubishi
LANCER 1.8 MX LIMITED





Powered for Performance.

Enjoy heart-pounding performance with the more powerful 123PS 1800cc 16-valve engine. Combined with its smooth-shifting INVECS-III CVT with 6-speed Sportronic, it delivers a steady surge of acceleration and optimized fuel efficiency. Pure performance to steer a driver's heart.

• *Front Chin Spoiler • *Rear Side Skirts • *Rear Spoiler • Fog Lamps

INVECS-III CVT 6-Speed Sportronic

• 4-Spoke Leather-Wrapped Steering Wheel • Woodgrain Panelling

• *MMVES DVD Player & Tuner with LCD Monitor or MMAD Single In-Dash CD Player & Tuner

• New Sporty 15" Aluminum Wheels with 195/60 R15 Tires

• SRS Dual Airbags

• Clear Lens Tail Lamp

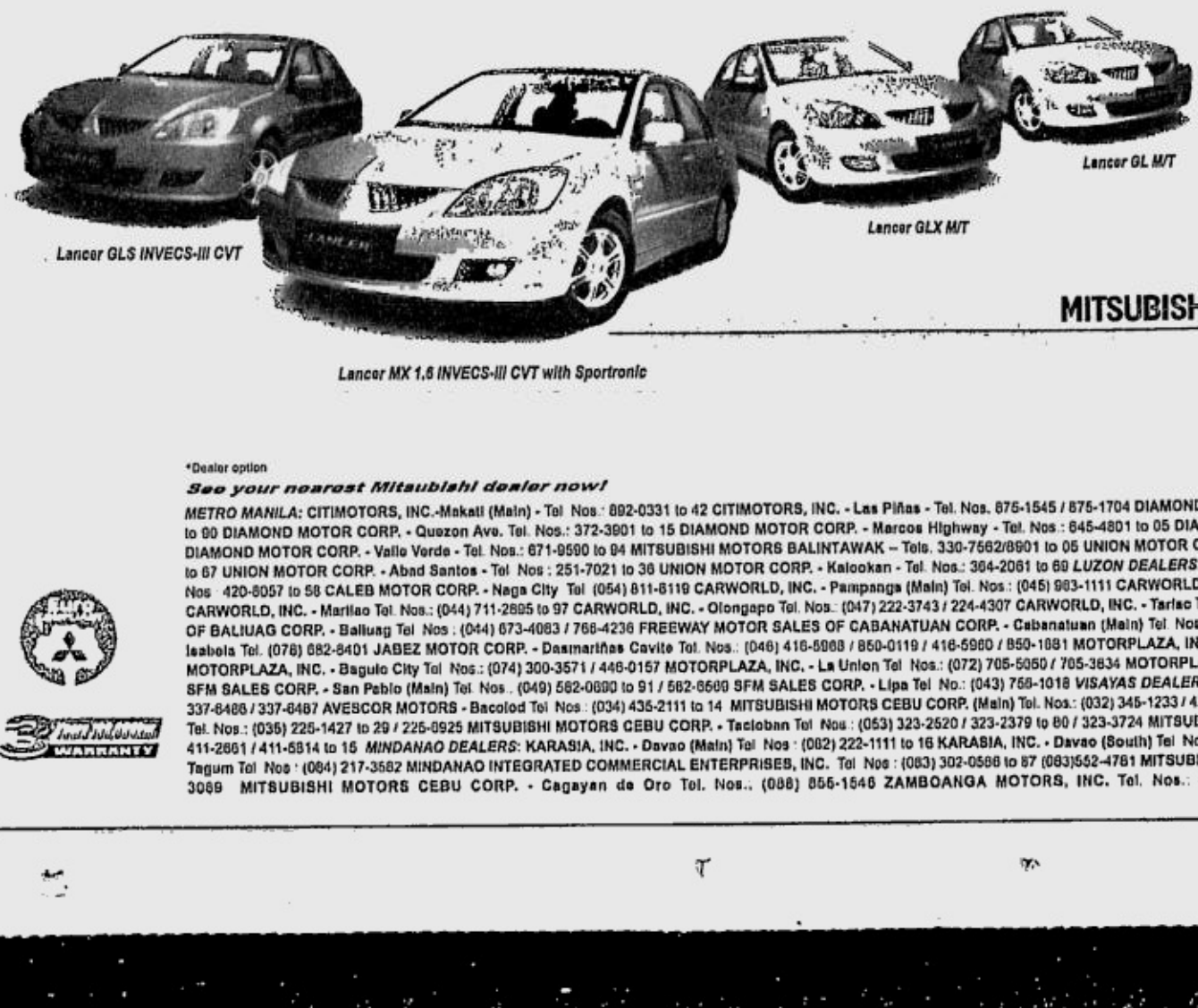
• *Mobile Phone Hands-Free Kit

• *MMAS Keyless Entry with Alarm • Engine Immobilizer

• 4-Wheel Disc Brakes

• ABS with Electronic Brakeforce Distribution (EBD)

Also available: Lancers with fuel-efficient 1.6 liter 4G18, SOHC, 16-valve Multi-Point Injection engines



AMAZINGLY AFFORDABLE EASY-OWN PLANS HOLIDAY RUSH!

New Lower Downpayment Plans for the Lancer GLX, GLS & MX 1.6

MITSUBISHI LANCER
Do you want to drive?

*Dealer option

See your nearest Mitsubishi dealer now!

METRO MANILA: CITIMOTORS, INC.-Makati (Main) - Tel Nos.: 892-0331 to 42 CITIMOTORS, INC. - Las Piñas - Tel. Nos. 875-1545 / 875-1704 DIAMOND MOTOR CORP. - Greenhills (Main) - Tel. Nos.: 727-0351 to 60 DIAMOND MOTOR CORP. - Quezon Ave. Tel. Nos.: 372-3901 to 15 DIAMOND MOTOR CORP. - Marcos Highway - Tel. Nos.: 645-4801 to 05 DIAMOND MOTOR - Fairview Tel. Nos.: 935-3731, 418-2945 DIAMOND MOTOR CORP. - Valle Verde - Tel. Nos.: 671-9590 to 94 MITSUBISHI MOTORS BALINTAWAK – Tels. 330-7562/8901 to 05 UNION MOTOR CORP. - Paco (Main) - Tel. Nos. 563-8481 to 85 / 563-8461 to 67 UNION MOTOR CORP. - Abad Santos - Tel Nos.: 251-7021 to 36 UNION MOTOR CORP. - Kalookan - Tel. Nos.: 364-2061 to 69 LUZON DEALERS: AMCAR AUTOMOTIVE CORP.- Sta. Rosa, Laguna - Tel. Nos. 420-8057 to 58 CALEB MOTOR CORP. - Naga City Tel (054) 811-6119 CARWORLD, INC. - Pampanga (Main) Tel. Nos.: (045) 963-1111 CARWORLD, INC. - Malolos Tel Nos.: (044) 791-8320 / 791-2405 to 06 CARWORLD, INC. - Marilao Tel. Nos.: (044) 711-2695 to 97 CARWORLD, INC. - Olongapo Tel. Nos.: (047) 222-3743 / 224-4307 CARWORLD, INC. - Tarlac Tel. Nos.: (0452) 982-5551 to 53 FREEWAY MOTOR SALES OF BALIUAG CORP. - Baliuag Tel Nos.: (044) 673-4083 / 766-4236 FREEWAY MOTOR SALES OF CABANATUAN CORP. - Cabanatuan (Main) Tel. Nos.: (044) 463-1391 / 463-5105 FREEWAY MOTOR SALES - Isabela Tel. (078) 682-8401 JABEZ MOTOR CORP. - Dasmariñas Cavite Tel. Nos.: (046) 416-6968 / 850-0119 / 416-5960 / 850-1081 MOTORPLAZA, INC. - Caloocan (Main) Tel. Nos.: (075) 517-3060 / 517-5635 MOTORPLAZA, INC. - Baguio City Tel Nos.: (074) 300-3571 / 446-0157 MOTORPLAZA, INC. - La Union Tel Nos.: (072) 705-5050 / 705-3634 MOTORPLAZA, INC. - Urdaneta Tel Nos.: (075) 568-2602 / 568-3312 SFM SALES CORP. - San Pablo (Main) Tel Nos.: (049) 562-0690 to 91 / 562-6569 SFM SALES CORP. - Lipa Tel No.: (043) 756-1018 VISAYAS DEALERS: AVESCOR MOTORS - Iloilo Tel Nos.: (033) 337-4455 / 337-6466 / 337-6467 AVESCOR MOTORS - Bacolod Tel Nos.: (034) 435-2111 to 14 MITSUBISHI MOTORS CEBU CORP. (Main) Tel. Nos.: (032) 345-1233 / 420-5777 MITSUBISHI MOTORS CEBU CORP. - Dumaguete Tel. Nos.: (035) 225-1427 to 29 / 225-0925 MITSUBISHI MOTORS CEBU CORP. - Tacloban Tel Nos.: (053) 323-2520 / 323-2379 to 80 / 323-3724 MITSUBISHI MOTORS CEBU CORP. - Tagbilaran Tel Nos. (038) 411-2661 / 411-5814 to 15 MINDANAO DEALERS: KARASIA, INC. - Davao (Main) Tel Nos.: (082) 222-1111 to 16 KARASIA, INC. - Davao (South) Tel Nos.: (082) 298-1400 to 04 / 298-0175 to 77 KARASIA, INC. - Tagum Tel Nos.: (084) 217-3582 MINDANAO INTEGRATED COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISES, INC. Tel Nos.: (083) 302-0586 to 87 (083)552-4781 MITSUBISHI MOTORS CEBU CORP. - Butuan Tel Nos.: (085) 815-3089 MITSUBISHI MOTORS CEBU CORP. - Cagayan de Oro Tel. Nos.: (088) 856-1546 ZAMBOANGA MOTORS, INC. Tel. Nos.: (062) 991-2199 / 991-2138 / 991-2250 / 993-0786

3 Year Unlimited Mileage WARRANTY

MITSUBISHI MOTORS

Petron cuts LPG price by P1 a kilo

INDUSTRY giant Petron Corp. rolled back prices of its liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) by P1 a kilogram effective midnight last night, citing the decline in the international contract prices of LPG.

Starting today, consumers can buy Petron's Gasul at prices ranging from P392-P419 per 11-kg cylinder.

After implementing a P1.50-per-kg increase in cooking gas prices last month, the company's last price hike for the year, Petron decided to cut LPG prices by P30 per 11-kg cylinder as LPG contract prices fell by almost $50 per metric ton (MT) this month.

According to data from the Department of Energy, LPG contract prices declined to $424 per MT in December from $470 last month.

LPG contract prices had been on the uptrend since April when prices of crude in the world market started escalating.

From $265 per MT in March, LPG contract prices rose to $292.80 in April. Prices then jumped to $319.40 in May, eventually breaching the $400 level in October when the contract price for that month hit $401.50.

As a result, local LPG prices went up 12 times by a total of P11.65 per kg this year alone.

Abigail L. Ho

WOW!
MAGIC SING
PREMIUM
Videoke Anytime, Anywhere!
All I Want For CHRISTMAS

WOWPHILIPPINES BIYAHE Tayo!
THE BONAMINE TRAVEL ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN
Meclizine HCl Bonamine
Biyahe Tayo! is a project of Bonamine/Pfizer/DOT/PCVC and is fully supported by WOWI Magic Sing Premium

☑ The No.1 Videoke Microphone with
- WOWPHILIPPINES picture backgrounds
- 793 Built-in Licensed songs plus BIYAHE Tayo! bonus song
- WOW! Magic Sing Premium Neckphone
- Mic Stand
- User friendly songlist & manual
- Leatherette bag
- 5 meter cable
- Autovolt Electronic Adaptor
- 1 year warranty
- Lifetime Service

☑ Duet Microphone with
- BIYAHE Tayo! VCD
- Receiver

☑ Tagalog 3,4 & 5 Song Chips with
- BIYAHE Tayo! VCD
- Licensed Songs
- User-friendly Songlist

Sing through the Philippines! WOW! PREMIUM Tara na, Videoke Tayo! WOW! Magic Sing Premium Tourism Advocacy Program

AVAILABLE NATIONWIDE AT:
odyssey MUSIC & VIDEO · Automatic CENTRE · AstroVision · ABENSON · WESTERN · MUSIC VIDEO · Home & Office Center · ASTROPLUS · AVID BRANDS! · SOLID ELECTRONICS · PACIFIC ELECTRONICS · SANSONIC MARKETING · OHM'S TRADER · Hirosé ELECTRONICS · W & M Marketing · SANTECH · ASSURANCE Merchandising · SIGHTS & SOUNDS · GOLDEN SOUND · The Listening Room · SPECTRA AUDIO VIDEO CENTER · TIONGSAN HARRISON · SOLAR SALES CENTER · CSI CITY SUPERMARKET INCORPORATED · ADDESSA CORPORATION · BHF · Consumers Appliance Traders, Inc. · EVER APPLIANCE CENTER, INC. · Willy and Sons Corporation · People's MARKETING · ABEN Marketing · ECHO · ASIAN HOME APPLIANCE CENTER, CO. · REVERB · ROMSTREL GENERAL MERCHANDISE · ECO-TECH · Cebu Appliance Center · CENTRUM APPLIANCE CENTRUM · RCS MARKETING · Lopue's · BQ · MI-GLEEN MARKETING INC. · GRO HOLIDAY APPLIANCE PLAZA INC. · QUALITY APPLIANCE PLAZA INC. · SPECIAL APPLIANCE PLAZA INC. · RAINBOW APPLIANCE PLAZA INC. · CENTRAL QUALITY APPLIANCE PLAZA INC. · Victoria · DEPARTMENT STORE & SUPERMARKET · BCS MUSIC CENTER · GOLDEN BELL · Mindanao Solidmark, Inc. · BETTER LIVING

Metro Manila Dealers:
Armstrong Gonzalo Puyat Recn, Manila • Knight Audio Room Recn Shopping Center, Manila • Fair N' Square Escolta St Binondo, Manila, Nueva St Binondo, Manila • Ample • Viewplus Appliance • Richland Electronics • Filgifts Filipino Merchant Bldg. Legaspi Village, Makati City • Earl Toy World • Shop Manila • VMZ Business Center • Belden Mktng. • Jems Appliances • Buy Smart • Prosound • Listening Style • Victronics Computers, Inc. • Sound Quest Electronic Center • Bothel Marketing • Belcap • Yamaha School of Music • Wilsonic Marketing • A Plus A • Welcome Home Appliance Corp.

Provincial Dealers: Luzon
TSB Bazaar Baguio City • Audio Mix Calamsayan, San Jose Batangas • Guanzon Merchandising Corp. • Joy's Radio Center & Record Bar • Ocampos Angeles • Ocampos Mega Store Metro Mall, Poblation, Bulanga Bataan, Arthur St. WBB Olongapo City, Dinalupihan Public Market, Dinalupihan, Bataan

Visayas & Mindanao:
Thosson's Marketing Dacuno Bldg cor Lorma & Panganiban Drive, Naga City • GC Appliance Corp • Siriliz Consumer Electronics Cebu City • R.A. Uy Appliance • Fiesta Appliance Center • J&R Nueva St., Cebu City

Exclusively Distributed by:
i.t-a-jiffy & G2K Corporation
www.magicmic.com www.wowmagicsing.com

Somewhere in the Guimaras Islands lies a hidden treasure...
Costa Aguada
ISLAND RESORT
Inampulugan Island, Guimaras, Philippines
YULETIDE OFFERING
P 4, 385.00 per person DBL Occupancy
Includes: 3 Days / 2 Nights Room accommodations.Roundtrip land & sea transfers via BCD. Welcome drinks. Two (2) Set Breakfasts. Two (2) Set Dinners. Costa Aguada T-Shirt. Scheduled island tram tour. Guided Jungle Trek. Cave Exploration
Validity: December 01, 2004 - January 15, 2005
See your travel agent or call:
GIF Oppen Bldg. 349 Sen Gil Puyat Ext., Makati City
Tel 8965422 • 7523688 • 8905333 loc 513/514
Telefax (632) 8905543 Email orinc@itexfon.com
Website www.costa.com.ph
Bacolod Office
24th Lacson Street, Mandalagan, Bacolod City
Tel. (034) 4344543 • 4337373
Fax (034) 4344541
DOT # R-R6-AA-004-2003

IWATA Paper Shredder NEW MODELS
Can shred CD's, Credit Cards & Staple Wire
15's capacity CROSS-CUT S-1500
7's capacity CROSS-CUT S-650
P8,600 15's capacity (A4/80gsm) 7's capacity P7,800
41x32x62cm (Machine Size) 34x94x56cm
4x38mm (Shred Size) 2x15mm
SPL FEATURES: Auto ON/OFF, Paper Jam Reverse Key, Thermal Overload Protection, Infra-Red Sensor for Auto ON/OFF, Auto Shut-Off on Bin Removal, Safety Window
SOLE AGENT: COLENT ENTERPRISE CO.
Suite 900 Del Monte Mansion Building Del Monte Avenue cor 910 Speaker Perez Street, Quezon City
Tels. 410-4317, 740-3815, 740-8138 to 40, 740-8148, 411-2396 to 98
Telefax: 411-2395 Fax: 411-2399 email: colent@pldtdsl.net

NIBOR
CASH for DIAMONDS
Nibor Diamond Buying Office of the Philippines
top caliber appraisals from INTERNATIONALLY EXPERIENCED GEMOLOGISTS
• INSTANT CASH for 1 1/2 carat & above, antiques and modern jewelry. Also old-cut diamonds.
• WE ACCEPT LOANS on important diamonds and jewelry.
ALL TRANSACTIONS KEPT CONFIDENTIAL
Tel. Nos.: 725-1823/ 726-1931 Mobile No.: (0917) 536-2456
Monday-Sunday 10am-5pm
Central Jewelry At The Jewellery. Greenhills Shopping Center. San Juan. M.M.

COPIERS Sales/Rentals
RICOH • Canon • Olivetti • Savin
Also Available : LIQUID COPIERS
BRAND NEW! RICOH FT 3813 BEST FOR BUSINESS
P 15,000. ONLY
POWDER TYPE FT 3320 15 CPM
P 49,900. ONLY
BRAND NEW CANON FC 240 FOR PERSONAL USE
P 15,000. ONLY
RECON FULL COLOR DIGITAL COPIER
P 15,000. ONLY
PARTS & SUPPLIES AVAILABLE FOR MOST COPIER BRANDS!
COPYTRADE®
Copytrade Bldg 550 MF Jhocson St. Sampaloc, Manila (Beside NatT Univ.)
Tels. 749-8155 to 58
781-3472 • 749-8216
www.copytrade.com.ph
• RINGBINDERS / LAMINATORS
CUTTERS/BLUEPRINT/RISO
• FAX MACHINES, ETC.
ACCEPT COPIER RENTALS FOR SHORT EVENTS
• BUY/TRADE-IN OLD COPIERS

IWATA TIME RECORDERS
DURABLE & RELIABLE, ALMOST 20 YEARS IN THE MARKET NOW
FREE DEMO
Digital Clock 10:10
Operates during brownouts
Uses 6 Columns Time Card
Analog Clock
P9,300.00 MODEL: CH-1A
P9,500 = E2A 2color printing Red for Late Black for Punctual
P12,850.00 MODEL: CW-1A
E2A 2Color & CH-1A/CW-1A 1Color Printing, Programmable Alarm, Memory & Battery Back-Up for brown-out use, Mark printing for Late & O.T., Dual Time Display, Perpetual Calendar
VERY HEAVY DUTY
SOLE DIST.:
COLENT ENTERPRISE CO.
Tels. 412-4317, 740-3815, 742-8139 to 42, 411-2396 to 98
Fax 411-2399 E-mail: colent@sfi.com.ph

Pamaskong Handog Mula Sa Aqua Soft
Start an AquaSoft Water Refilling Station
with special start-up package
including 1 FREE *Motorcycle Unit
"The Way Water Should Be..."
"Be an AquaSoft Franchise"
Hurry ! Call us now
Promo Extended up to December 15, 2004
FOR FRANCHISING INQUIRIES PLEASE CALL:
AquaSoft Water Systems., Inc.
* CORPORATE HEADQUARTER
5th Floor, King Center Bldg., #57 Sgt. E. Rivera St., Brgy. Manresa, Quezon City 1115
Tel# (02) 367-7134
Mobile No. 0917-6262708
* CEBU REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS
Unit 6, 7, & 8, A & S Bldg., A. C. Cortez Ave., Mandaue City, Cebu 6014
Tel. # (032) 344-6473
Mobile No. 0917-6258188
Toll Free 1800-102882-328

Showcase Cabinets & Displayers
Full-Sized & Corner Showcases
Elegant glass display cabinets with lighting fixtures for shops and collections.
Full-Sized Showcase 64 x 46 x 182 (H) cm
Full-Sized Showcase 90 x 46 x 182 (H) cm
Full-Sized Showcase 90 x 46 x 182 (H) cm
Full-Sized Corner Showcase 74 x 74 x 182 (H) cm
Full-Sized Showcase 92 x 46 x 180 (H) cm
DEXTERTON
Dexterton Corporation
Address
157 Sgt. E. Rivera St., Quezon City
Tel: 362-1111, 361-6006 Fax No: 362-0524
email: info@dexterton.com
website: www.dexterton.com

DLI GENERICS SINCE 1986
Quality na gamot, sa presyong mas abot!!!
Suggested Retail Price August 8, 2004 • Makatitipid ng higit sa 80%

Analgesic/Antipyretic (Para sa kirot, lagnat o trangkaso)	DLI	Leading Brand	Savings
Mefenamic Acid susp. 50 mg/5 ml 60 ml	✓ 24.00	104.00	80.00/bot
Mefenamic Acid tab. 500 mg	✓ 1.70	20.85	19.15/tab
Paracetamol syrup 125 mg/5 ml 60 ml	✓ 21.70	63.50	41.80/bot
Paracetamol tab 500 mg	✓ 0.60	2.45	1.85/tab
Anti-biotic (Kontra-Bakterya)			
Amoxicillin cap. 250 mg	✓ 2.60	8.95	6.35/cap
Amoxicillin cap. 500 mg	✓ 3.70	15.75	12.05/cap
Amoxicillin susp. 250 mg/5 ml, 60 ml	✓ 45.10	144.00	98.90/bot
Ampicillin cap. 500 mg	✓ 6.50	14.15	7.65/bot
Chloramphenicol cap. 500 mg	✓ 3.20	37.75	34.55/cap
Chloramphenicol susp. 125 mg/5 ml 60 ml	✓ 40.40	394.75	354.35/bot
Co-trimoxazole tab (TM-160mg SMZ-800mg)	✓ 2.30	26.00	23.70/tab
Co-trimoxazole cap. (TM-80mg SMZ-400mg)	✓ 2.60	14.80	12.20/cap
Co-trimoxazole susp. (TM-40mg SMZ-200mg)	✓ 25.40	115.75	90.35/bot
Anti-cough (Para sa Ubo)			
Bromhexine HCL syrup 4 mg/5 ml, 60 ml	✓ 26.70	74.75	48.05/bot
Carbocisteine cap. 500 mg	✓ 2.40	12.25	9.85/cap
Carbocisteine susp. 100 mg/5 ml, 60 ml	✓ 32.70	87.25	54.55/bot
Anti-diarrhea (Para sa pagtatae)			
Loperamide cap. 2mg	✓ 1.80	10.25	8.45/cap

Mabibili sa sumusunod at sa mga botikang abot-kaya ang halaga.
Huwag ipagpapalit sa iba! Hanapin ang tatak DLI.
If out of stock, call 711-3933 712-4990 743-1630
Watsons · EMILENE'S PHARMACY · Carlos SUPERDRUG · Rose Pharmacy
For factory prices visit: www.DLI-Generics.com for complete product & price information

8 KEYS TO YOUR DIFFERENT INTERESTS

Only from INQUIRER

'Iggy' wants Abadia probed on RSBS

NEGROS Occidental Rep. Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo, a brother of First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, yesterday called for a congressional investigation into the finances of the Armed Forces Retirement Services and Benefits System during the term of former AFP chief Gen. Lisandro Abadia.

Arroyo said the investigation should focus on the alleged increase in the assets of Abadia and how the RSBS incurred losses during his tenure as RSBS chair.

Saying that the RSBS plunged into near-bankruptcy during Abadia's tenure, Arroyo said that if found responsible, the retired general should be brought to justice.

The Ombudsman last week ordered the filing of graft charges against Abadia for allegedly accumulating P11 million in "unexplained wealth" during his term as AFP chief from 1991 to 1993.

Abadia said the charges against him were part of a smear campaign allegedly being orchestrated by the First Gentleman and Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes, himself a former AFP chief.

Arroyo said his brother, the First Gentleman, should not be dragged into the AFP corruption issue.

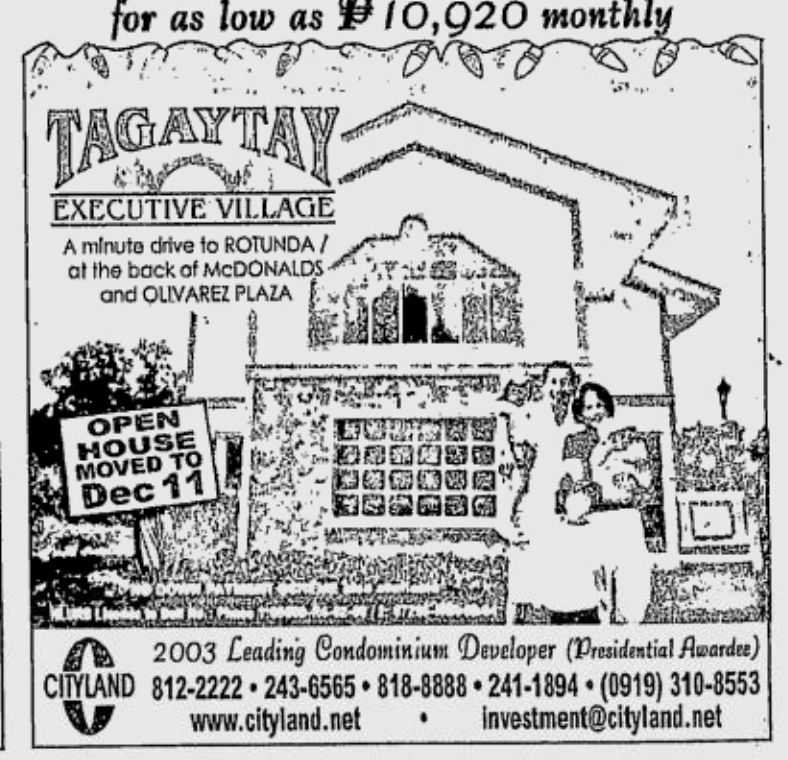
"Instead of evading the issue and destroying disinterested people like the First Gentleman, General Abadia should first explain the simultaneous increase in his assets and the losses of the RSBS," Arroyo said.

He said the salary of Abadia as AFP chief was not that substantial to merit such an increase in his assets.

And, since the RSBS was part of the AFP, he said the military pension fund should not be spared from the ongoing investigation of corruption in the military establishment.

The RSBS, a pension fund for soldiers, was found to have incurred huge losses because of heavy investments in real estate and other projects.

The Senate blue ribbon committee that investigated the case had recommended the filing of charges against Abadia and other RSBS officials in 2001. But the Office of the Ombudsman cleared them after giving weight to Abadia's defense that the RSBS was a private fund. *Cynthia D. Balana*



Get to work on RP victim, Cimatu asked

By Cynthia D. Balana

TWO LEADERS of the House of Representatives yesterday asked special envoy to the Middle East Roy Cimatu to immediately coordinate with the Philippine embassy in Saudi Arabia to secure overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) there following the death of a Filipino working in the United States consulate during an attack by Saudi militants.

Cebu Rep. Antonio Cuenco, chair of the House committee on foreign affairs, and Zamboanga del Norte Rep. Roseller Barinaga, chair of the House committee on labor and employment, said there was a need to shore up the embassy's security defenses and draw up security precautions for Filipinos in Saudi Arabia in case of another attack.

Romeo de la Rosa, a telecommunications maintenance worker in the US consulate in Riyadh, was killed the other day when Saudi police traded gunfire with suspects believed to be linked to the al-Qaida movement of Osama bin Laden.

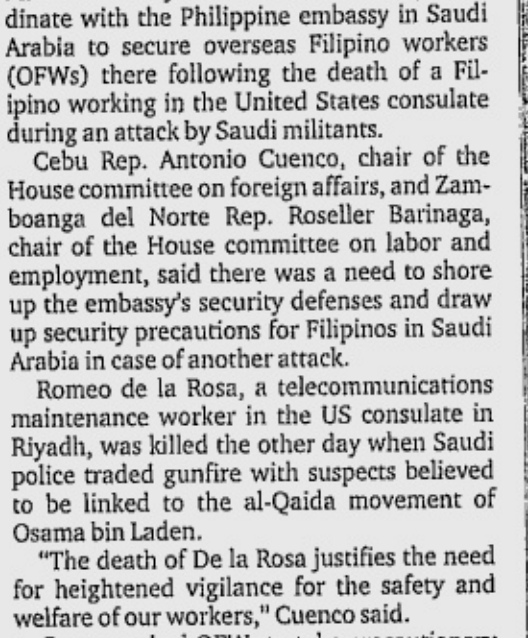
"The death of De la Rosa justifies the need for heightened vigilance for the safety and welfare of our workers," Cuenco said.

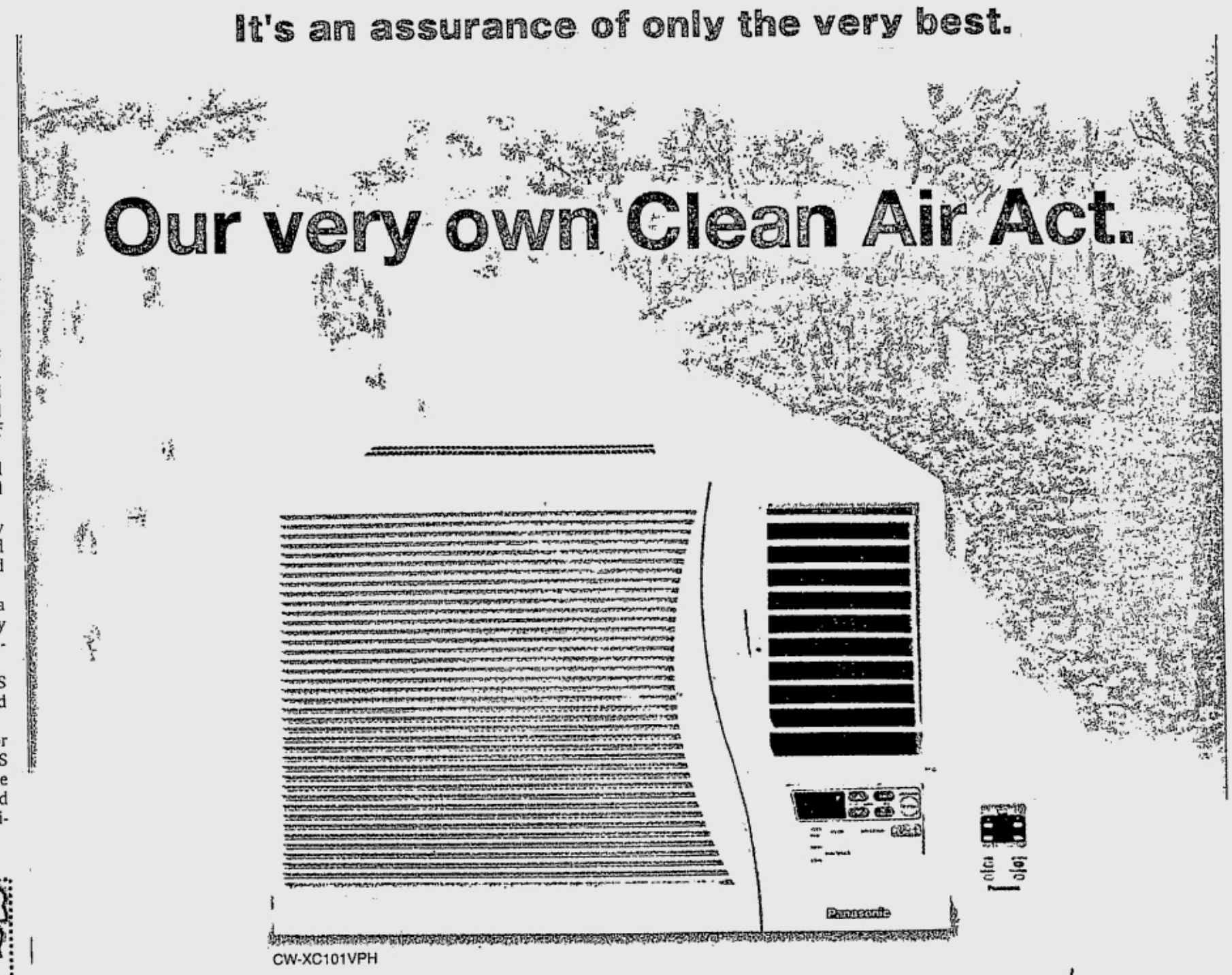
Cuenco asked OFWs to take precautionary measures because of Bin Laden's renewed challenge for terrorists to attack the US and its allies, the Philippines included.

Barinaga said the US embassy attack was a stark reminder that OFWs were "extremely vulnerable" and deserved government protection and support.

Prior to the attack, he said, most of the US consulate staff in Jeddah had been evacuated several months ago due to security threats.

"We urge Ambassador Cimatu to work for the safety of our remaining OFWs in the US embassy in Jeddah and to coordinate with the OFW communities in the Middle East and Saudi Arabia for any possible attack by militants," Barinaga said.





Gov't now allows logging in privately owned lands

LEARN TO DO IT RIGHT
TRAINING SERIES

MICROLENDING BUSINESS	Dec. 11/19
SETTING UP A TRAVEL BUSINESS	Dec. 10/17
TOUR PACKAGING	Dec. 11/18
RESERVATIONS/TICKETING	Dec. 19
TRAVEL DOCUMENTATION	Dec. 12
PRESCHOOL OPERATIONS	Dec. 14-15
LAUNDRY SHOP BUSINESS	Dec. 16-17
MANAGING PERSONAL FINANCE	Dec. 10/17
START/MANAGE A BUSINESS	Dec. 11/18
ACCTG. FOR NON ACCOUNTANTS	Dec. 10-17
SOAPMAKING	Dec. 16
CANDLEMAKING	Dec. 15
BALOON ARTS/CRAFTS	Dec. 12
TAHO/TOKWA MAKING	Dec. 19
MEAT PROCESSING	Dec. 16
NATIVE KAKANIN	Dec. 18
PASTRIES & CAKES	Dec. 12
COMM'L BREADMAKING	Dec. 17-19
JAPANESE LANGUAGE (LEVEL 4)	160HRS

Phone reservation is required!
INSTITUTE FOR CAREER OPPORTUNITIES & PROGRAMS FOR EMPOWERMENT
17 Gen. Malvar St., Brgy. San Antonio, Pasig City
ON LINE REGISTRATION at www.i-cope.com
CALL NOW 620-6801/620-6717/ (0917) 825-0030

'Private interests must yield to the general welfare of the country'

From page A1

cañang was now making a distinction between logging in private and public lands, he said: "But there are private concessionaires complaining. *'Bakit ganito, pinagtanim kami* (After allowing us to plant, why this)?' In fact, they own the [cultivated] land."

'Totally correct'

But the Department of Justice is upholding the legality of Ms Arroyo's order suspending all logging activities nationwide.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said the President was authorized under the Constitution to suspend such activities even if the logging firms had permits from the DENR.

"Private interests must yield to the general welfare of the country," he said. "The President was totally correct."

Gonzalez said he expected loggers, especially those exporting timber, to challenge the legality of Ms Arroyo's order.

"Does [the order] violate the law? Yes and no," he said. "Yes, it infringes on the contract of the logging firms. But it does not violate the law under the general welfare clause of the Constitution."

Gonzalez also said the President could order the suspension because the state had the police power to ensure the safety of its citizens.

"Salus populi est suprema lex. The welfare of the people is the supreme law," he said, adding that there were enough laws to protect the forests but the problem was implementation.

'Private' hectares

According to Defensor, private plantation owners are authorized to cut trees within their property by virtue of a private land timber permit or PLTP.

Logging concessionaires operating in public lands enter into Integrated Forest Management Agreements (Ifmas) with the government—a latter-day version of the Timber License Agreements (TLAs) during the Marcos regime.

Of the Philippines' current forest cover estimated at 7 million hectares, private plantations account for 2 million hectares, Defensor said, quoting DENR data.

These "private" hectares, along with government reforestation programs covering 500,000 hectares, enabled the Philippine forest cover to expand to its current scale from only around 4.5 million hectares in 1997, he said.

Bukidnon Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri dropped in at the press conference held at the DENR main office in Quezon City to make a pitch for his proposed bill that would ban logging in public forests but would allow private tree plantations.

Zubiri and Defensor, a former Quezon City congressman, were both among the so-called "Spice Boys" composed of young members of the House in the previous Congress.

'Mercenary'

But Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran demanded that Defensor resign his post.

"Defensor's defense of the logging firms is a gross betrayal of the victims and survivors of the latest disasters," said the militant party-list lawmaker. "He is looking at the entire matter from a purely business and mercenary perspective."

Beltran said Defensor's posture betrayed the alleged all-talk, no-action stance of the President vis-a-vis the destruction of the forests.

With hundreds of Filipinos dead or missing, "isn't it a convincing enough reason to ban logging completely and revoke all logging permits?" he said.

Before Congress deliberates on yet another law in reaction to the recent disaster, lawmakers must first consider that logging companies are supposedly hiring and equipping illegal cutters to do the dirty work outside their government-designated areas, according to another militant party-list representative, Bayan Muna's Teodoro Casiño.

He also noted that only P5 million had been allocated for forest protection in the proposed 2005 budget.

The Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas said the DENR had issued orders that may have contributed to massive deforestation and should share the blame with illegal loggers.

One such order was Department Administrative Order No. 59 issued by Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun on her last day at her post on Aug. 31, said KMP spokesperson Carl Anthony Ala.

"Gozun's order facilitates the wholesale conversion of virtually every hectare available of some 10 million hectares of the public domain for uses totally incompatible with the protection and regeneration of forests, and therefore inconsistent with sustainable development," Ala said.

He said DAO 59 was just one of Gozun's 28 "midnight orders." *With reports from Philip C. Tubeza, Norman Bordadora and Carlito Pablo in Manila*

Gov't to use 'satellite imaging technology' vs illegal loggers

By Fe Zamora

FOREST czar Victor Corpus yesterday said that in view of the scarcity of forest rangers, he would use "satellite imaging technology" to do the job.

"The satellite will track down illegal loggers for the police and military to apprehend," he told reporters in Filipino.

But high technology will be used only at the start of the campaign to guard and replant the forests, said Corpus.

"We believe that if we can do it through self-reliance, we will be spending less," he said.

Corpus, a retired general, said his request for an initial P100 million was only "to jump-start the project."

"I'm not even sure if it would be enough," he said.

Corpus is proposing a community-based reforestation program that will allow a family to plant at least 1,000 trees a year in a 10-year cycle. The family gets 70 percent of the proceeds of the sale of the trees after 10 years.

Giving the community "proprietary rights" will give it the responsibility to "guard the trees," Corpus said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo had named Corpus chair of the state-owned Natural Resources Development Corp. and head of the anti-illegal-logging task force.

But Pasig Rep. Robert Jaworski said the appointment was "a big mistake."

"The President and General Corpus are like two opposite poles with their conflicting positions ... This is very confusing because we have a President advocating a total log ban policy and appointing a new adviser who does not seem to share her belief," the neophyte congressman said.

On Monday, Ms Arroyo endorsed to Congress the immediate passage of a measure imposing a total log ban. But on the same day, Corpus said this could not be possible and proposed that the government continue to adopt a selective log ban.

"I have no question on the integrity and capability of General Corpus but appointing him to a position that is intrinsically in conflict with his view only guarantees that a total log ban policy is doomed to fail," Jaworski said. *With a report from Cynthia D. Balana*

1st suspension order served

IN DINGALAN, Aurora, DENR officials yesterday began the perilous trek to Barangay Umiray, where the offices of Green Circle Properties Resources Inc. and the sawmill of its sister company, Green Square Properties Corp., are located to serve a suspension order.

It was the first such order following the landslides that killed more than 600 people in Aurora and Quezon in the last two weeks.

And it was the last official act of Meliton Vicente Jr., who has been relieved as DENR chief in Dingalan and is due for reassignment to Cabanatuan City.

Umiray in southern Dingalan and its neighboring town of General Nakar in Quezon make up the site of Green Circle's 27,851.79-hectare estate.

Vicente received the copy of the order Monday night from Regidor de Leon and Ricardo Calderon, DENR regional executive director and regional forestry chief, respectively.

De Leon, who signed the order based on a Nov. 21 memorandum from Defensor, said Green Circle had "failed to protect its area from timber poachers."

The DENR Central Luzon office received Defensor's memorandum last Friday.

While the suspension was for "immediate implementation," it did not explain why it was being served after 15 days. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

TRITON
A Brand of Favorite Shower
CERTIFIED 100% MADE IN U.K.
Model: T70i
• Safe and economical
• Easy-to-use controls
• Choice of jet, soft, and regular spray mode
• Lifetime free service guarantee
For FREE technical advice and general inquiries:
Tested By The British Standard Institute
INDOLA International Phils., Inc.
665 Florentino Torres St., Sta. Cruz, Manila 1003
Tel.: 733-0366 to 68 Fax: 736-1655
E-mail : mail@indolainternational.com
Website: www.indolainternational.com
Also available at all leading electrical and hardware stores
FREE INSTALLATION WITHIN METRO MANILA

CASIO
14.2mm* thin.
The world's smallest* optical zoom camera
2.8x optical zoom lens
3.2 megapixels
14.2mm at thinnest point
EXILIM CARD
STYLISH & SPEEDY
EX-S100 SRP P21,895.00
EX-Z55 SRP P24,895.00 — 2.5" LCD screen, 3x optical zoom, 5.0 megapixels
EX-Z30 SRP P17,900.00 — 2.0" LCD screen, 3x optical zoom, 3.2 megapixels
EX-Z40 SRP P19,900.00 — 2.0" LCD screen, 3x optical zoom, 4.0 megapixels
EX-Z50 — 2.0" LCD screen, 3x optical zoom, 5.0 megapixels
EXILIM PRO EX-P700 SRP P31,995.00 — 2.0" LCD screen, 4x optical zoom, 7.0 megapixels
*1 At thinnest point *2 Optical zoom digital cameras as of August 25th 2004, based on information available to CASIO.
For every purchase of EXILIM PRO EX-P700 get a FREE Velbon Tripod worth P1,060.00.
For every purchase of EXILIM EX-Z55 or EX-S100, get a FREE 128MB SD Card.
Offer good from November 15, 2004 to January 15, 2005 only!
*DTI-NCR APPROVED PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO.: 6600, SERIES OF 2004.
Philippine Distributor:
COLUMBIA GLOBAL PHOTO SALES CORP.
129 - 135 G. Roxas St., San Francisco Del Monte, Quezon City
Tels.: 363-7463 • 363-8550 • 365-0927 / 28 • 414-3110 Fax No.: (632) 364-3334
E-mail: sales_mktg@columbiaglobal.net • www.columbiaglobal.net

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Justice
BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION
Manila

25 November 2004

SUPPLEMENTAL MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR No. AFF-04-019A

Extension of Memorandum Circular No. AFF-04-019 [14 September 2004]

Whereas, Memorandum Circular (M.C.) No. AFF-04-019 [14 September 2004], Section 4 provides for a 60-day period for certain classes of aliens to be re-instated to their *bona-fide* status as lawful non-immigrants and immigrants in the Philippines;

Whereas, many of the aliens concerned have been unable to re-instate such *bona-fide* status due to unforeseen adverse business conditions, unexpected economic hardship, or lack of sufficient notice or information;

Whereas, public interest warrants an extension of the 60-day period under M.C. No. AFF-04-019 [14 September 2004], Section 4 to optimize the re-instatement of certain classes of aliens to their *bona-fide* status as lawful non-immigrants and immigrants in the Philippines;

Whereas, the Commissioner of Immigration is vested with authority to address this concern by prescribing such supplemental procedures as may be necessary under the principle of subordinate legislation;

Now, therefore, pursuant to Commonwealth Act No. 613, Section 3, as amended, and Republic Act No. 562, Section 2, as amended, in relation to Letter of Implementation No. 20 (1972), Section 15.1(a) and (c) and Executive Order (E.O.) No. 292 (1987), Book III, Title I, Chapter 3, Section 10, this supplemental memorandum circular is hereby issued, to wit:

Section 1. Extension of 60-day period to re-instate lawful status. – Aliens under M.C. No. AFF-04-019 [14 September 2004] are hereby granted additional 60 days or until 15 January 2005 within which to re-instate their lawful status as non-immigrants or immigrants in the Philippines.

Section 2. Extension of 60-day cease and desist initiative. Administrative disciplinary action. Exceptions. – The 60-day cease and desist initiative under M.C. No. AFF-04-019 [14 September 2004] is likewise extended. Thus, all officers, officials and employees of this Bureau, whether organic, detailed, contractual or otherwise, shall cease and desist, under pain of administrative/disciplinary action, from conducting operations, proceedings, inquiries and the like, of whatever kind or nature, and/or for whatever purpose, against aliens during this period of extension, unless expressly directed by the Commissioner of Immigration, Secretary of Justice or by the President.

Section 3. Effectivity. – This memorandum circular shall take effect within five (5) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

ALIPIO F. FERNANDEZ, JR.
Commissioner

(PDI – December 8, 2004)

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

SC asked to hold Garcia in contempt

By Philip C. Tubeza

ACCUSING embattled Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia of "willful and deliberate" forum-shopping, the Office of the Ombudsman yesterday asked the Supreme Court to dismiss Garcia's petition to stop a forfeiture case against him.

Not only should the petition be dismissed but Garcia and his lawyer should also be held in contempt, said Ombudsman Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio in his comment to the court.

Garcia, a former Armed Forces comptroller, was suspended without pay and restricted to quarters after he was accused of amassing P143 million in unexplained wealth. He has been charged before a military court and the anti-graft court.

In another unexplained wealth case, the Ombudsman also filed a petition for forfeiture against Lt. Col. George Rabusa who is charged with amassing wealth and property "manifestly out of proportion to his salary during his incumbency as a soldier and public officer."

Rabusa, who was AFP budget officer under Garcia, is accused of having accumulated P43 million in unexplained wealth.

Villa-Ignacio said Garcia was resorting to forum-shopping when he questioned before both the Sandiganbayan and the Supreme Court the anti-graft court's jurisdiction to try the forfeiture case against him.

Forum-shopping occurs when a petitioner "institutes two or more actions or proceedings grounded on the same cause, on the gamble that one or the other court would make a favorable judgement," he explained.

Villa-Ignacio deplored the "arrogance" of Garcia who apparently filed both petitions on the same day.

He said Garcia was "disrespectfully trifling with the administration of justice for, with his strategy, he is soliciting the danger of conflicting resolutions on the same issue by this honorable court and the honorable Sandiganbayan."

Villa-Ignacio also challenged Garcia's contention that the Sandiganbayan had no jurisdiction over him and that Ombudsman had no power to prosecute him.

He said the anti-graft court had jurisdiction over forfeiture cases involving high-ranking military officers under the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act.

The Ombudsman also has the authority to investigate cases of unexplained wealth and initiate forfeiture proceedings, he said.

In its petition against Rabusa, the Office of the Ombudsman said it had determined that a *prima facie* case existed against Rabusa for amassing huge amounts of money and properties "manifestly out of proportion to his salary during his incumbency as a soldier and public officer."

Included as respondents were Rabusa's wife Debbie and father-in-law Felix Arevalo for allegedly acting as "conspirators, conduits, dummies and fronts" of the colonel.

Rabusa tried to explain the dramatic increase in his net worth by saying that from 1993 to 2001, he had received a P4.1 million inheritance and "financial aid from his parents-in-law."

According to the petition, Rabusa declared in his Statements of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth P13.5 million in government salaries and income from other sources earned from 1990 to 2003.

He also declared that his wife had received a partial inheritance and donations in the amount of P4.1 million.

The Ombudsman however said Rabusa's declared income "is itself highly questionable" and his wife's inheritance "has no basis."

"No evidence is available on record to support the claim that indeed the respondent and his wife received the alleged donations and inheritance in the stated amounts," the petition said.

Rabusa's SALN also revealed that his total personal and family expenses amounted to P21 million.

"The respondent and his family had been spending more than what can legitimately be sustained by his salary and income from known sources," the Ombudsman's petition said.

It also said that Rabusa failed to sufficiently explain the sources of his undeclared investments, assets and funds amounting to P43 million. *With a report from Margaux C. Ortiz and Armand N. Nocum*

No extended week for construction, health workers

WORKERS in the construction and health industries are exempt from the compressed work week scheme being promoted by the Department of Labor and Employment.

Labor Assistant Secretary Benedicto Bitonio Jr. said workers involved in manual labor, employed in hospitals, and exposed to hazardous conditions were not covered by the extended work days because it could harm their health.

"We balanced the concerns of workers and employers. We need to protect the workers. Prolonged exposure to harmful chemicals or disease-causing bacteria in their work places could pose health and safety problems for them," Bitonio told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas signed the "advisory" encouraging a shorter work week for companies to cut on costs and improve the productivity of workers.

He said the DOLE finalized the guidelines for the compressed work week scheme on Dec. 2. Some companies in the electronics industry are already implementing the scheme, he said.

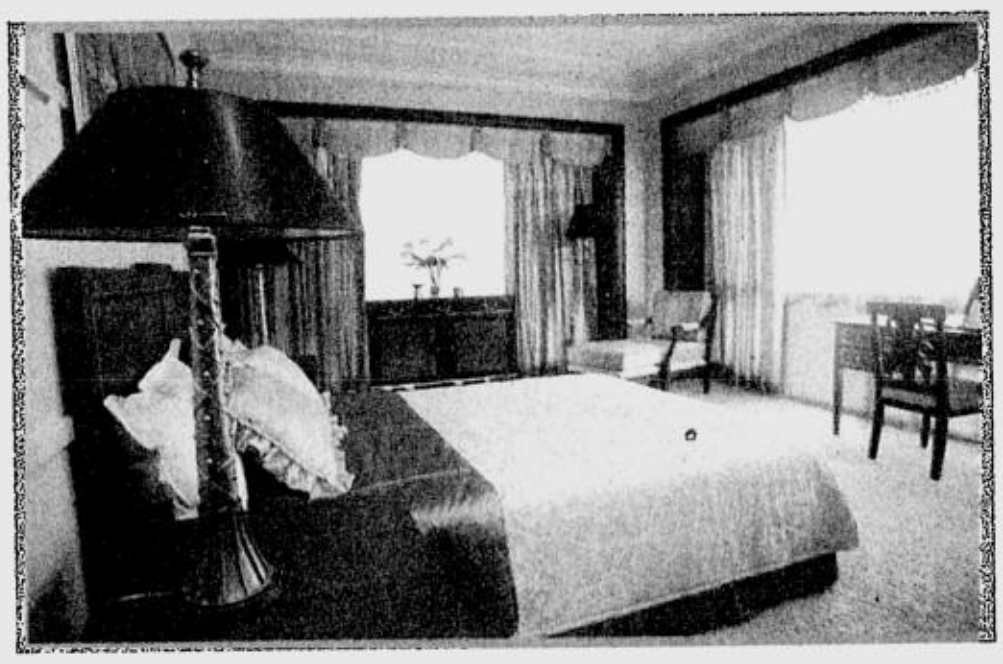
ROVER SYSTEMS Electronic Security Systems
CCTV DIGITAL VIDEO RECORDERS
(4) B/W CCTV PROMO PACKAGE: P31,240.00
(4) COLOR CCTV PROMO PACKAGE: P45,640.00
1/3" B/W Dome Cameras or 1/4" Color Dome Cameras
Monitor Digital Multiplexer Recorder
REPLACE YOUR MUX + TIME-LAPSE VCR
4 CHANNEL
DIGITAL MULTIPLEXER RECORDERS
16 CHANNEL
P16,650.00
NOW ONLY
P33,300.00
HARD DISK DRIVE NOT INCLUDED
PROMO ENDS UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 2004
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2991 series of 2004
SHOWROOMS
ROVER SYSTEMS (PASIG) Stall B-9 MC Home Depot, Inc. 168 Ortigas Ave., cor. Meralco Ave., Pasig City Tel No.:(632) 638-3859 Telefax: (632) 638-3860
ROVER SYSTEMS (MAKATI) Stall 4-B MC Home Builder's Depot Edsa cor. Pasong Tamo, Makati City Tel No.: (632) 840-5623 Telefax: (632) 840-3367
ROVER SYSTEMS (FORT BONIFACIO) CS#217a -219 MC Home Depot 32nd St., Bonifacio Blvd, Global City, Taguig Metro Manila Tel No.: (632) 815-4929 Telefax: (632) 815-4906

PLASMA TV - P3000? LAPTOP - P1600?
PROP-ELECTRONICS
REALISTIC LOOKING PROP APPLIANCES FOR USE BY DESIGNERS, ARCHITECTS, DEVELOPERS, RETAILERS IN MODEL UNITS, FURNITURE SHOWROOMS ETC.....
SUNSHINE SQUARE - 312 SHAW BLVD. MANDALUYONG MM. PHILIPPINES TEL NO. 718-2675 TO 78 EMAIL: fincollazione@hotmail.com
Finitura

GRAND OFFER, limited time only! Interest-free In-house Financing Package and Free Appliance Package.

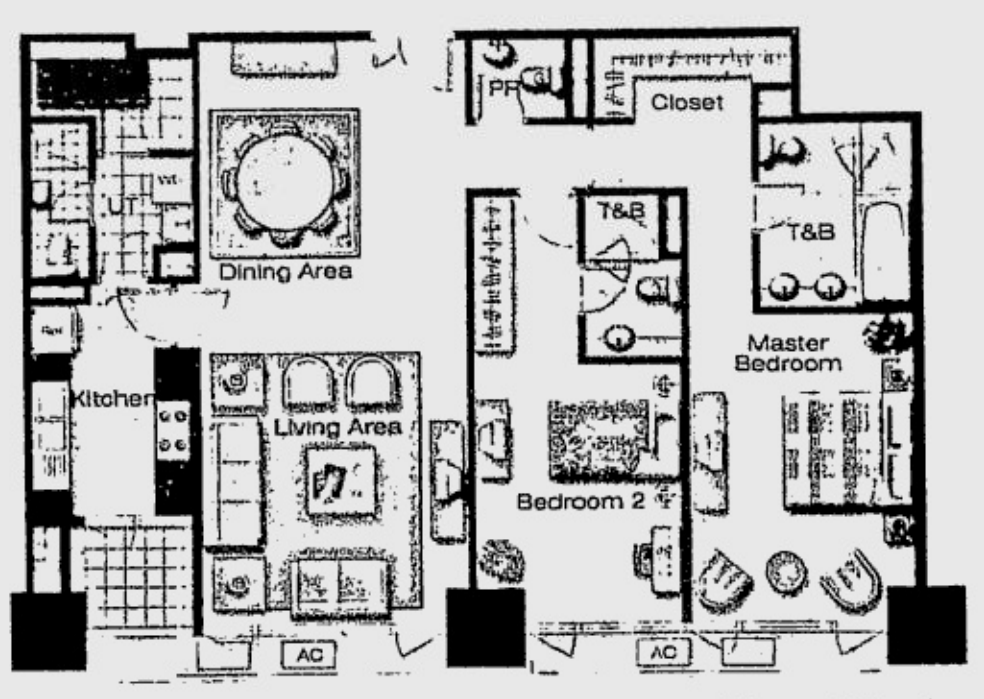
Grand opportunity!

Spacious, stylish 2-bedroom unit at The Shang Grand Tower ideal for moving in or investing.



OUR 2-BEDROOM ADVANTAGE
- Spacious 2-bedroom units with approximately 130 sqm. of livable space
- High ceiling, big windows for relaxed, gracious living
- Every bedroom with elegantly designed toilet and bath
- Separate guest powder room
- Modern kitchen equipped with double sink, seamless countertops with hanging and under counter cabinets plus windows that swing open to let out steamy air and food odor
- Maid's quarters with own toilet and bath
- Price of unit includes parking slot/s and VAT
- Larger units also available

THE SHANGRI-LA ADVANTAGE
- Luxury 46-storey residential condominium
- Walking distance to Greenbelt, Glorietta and the Makati business district, yet far enough from the hustle and bustle
- Special amenities include 2 lobbies, gym and fitness center, adult and children's pools, concierge service
- Services like catering and 7-day laundry service linked to Makati Shangri-La Hotel
- Expected completion date, late 2005



Unit with Deck

Model units ready for viewing. Monday to Sunday, at your best appointed time. The Shang Grand Tower Sales Office, 4th Avenue corner Rizal Drive, Global City, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig.

For inquiries, please call: 811-1819, 811-0556 or fax 811-0557.

The particulars, details and visuals shown herein are intended to give a general idea of the project and as such are not to be relied upon as statements of fact. While such particulars and details are based on present plans, which have been prepared with utmost care and are presented in good faith, buyers are invited to verify their factual correctness and subsequent changes, if any. The contents herein are subject to change without prior notice and do not constitute part of an offer or contract. HLURB License to Sell # 01851

The Shang Grand Tower
Luxury Residential Condominium

THE SHANG GRAND TOWER CORPORATION
Part of Kuok Group of Companies
HONG KONG • CHINA • SINGAPORE • MALAYSIA • AUSTRALIA • THAILAND • PHILIPPINES

www.TheShangGrandTower.com
Sales@TheShangGrandTower.com

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Ukraine talks fail to end political crisis

KIEV—A tentative deal to ease Ukraine's political crisis foundered Tuesday over the opposition's refusal to endorse constitutional changes and President Leonid Kuchma's rejection of the call to fire his prime minister.

An initial agreement envisaged parliament's simultaneous passage of the opposition-demanded electoral changes to prevent fraud in the Dec. 26 presidential election rerun between opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko and Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, and the government-pushed constitutional reform that would trim presidential powers.

But that deal appeared in jeopardy after six-hour, European-mediated talks between Yushchenko, Yanukovich and outgoing President Leonid Kuchma.

A somber Kuchma told reporters that the parties failed to agree on the constitutional reform and on the opposition's push for Yanukovich's resignation.

"A conciliatory commission will start working tomorrow," he said, expressing hope that it would "achieve success and solve the issues that we failed to solve."

The compromise agreement signed after the talks contained Kuchma's pledge to reshuffle the Central Election Commission—a key opposition demand—and emphasized the need to pass electoral changes to ensure "a fair and transparent vote."

However, the lack of consensus on the constitutional changes made the implementation of those pledges unlikely.

On Tuesday, Yushchenko backers now in their third straight week of protests in a sprawling tent camp in downtown Kiev, lashed out at what they described as "Kuchma's plots."

"We have been peaceful so far," said a protester who identified himself only as Vyacheslav from the city of Rivne. But if Yushchenko wants to force Kuchma to concede defeat in his attempt to hand power to his chosen successor, "we are ready," Vyacheslav said—a tacit threat that the demonstrators could turn to violence.

At a barricade blocking the entrance to the Cabinet building, Yushchenko's orange-clad backers remained determined not to let "a single bureaucrat enter," said Adam Yanakievich from Kiev.

"Kuchma and Yanukovych are trying our patience," Yanakievych said.

Oleksandr Zinchenko, a lawmaker and Yushchenko's campaign manager, said prospects of reaching compromise in Parliament on Tuesday appeared dim. "What sense does it make to vote for the political reform if we failed to reach agreement on key issues?" he said.

Zinchenko said Kuchma was refusing to meet the key opposition demand to fire Yanukovich, and indicated that reshuffling the election commission and electoral changes were also in doubt.

A similar compromise deal between Yushchenko's supporters and pro-government lawmakers fell apart Saturday, when opposition lawmakers refused to endorse the constitutional reform. *AP*

Attack on US consulate shows militants' capability

DUBAI—The daring assault on the US consulate in western Saudi Arabia—the first high-profile attack in seven months in the kingdom—served as a frightening reminder that the country still has a long road to eradicating the terror threats that have plagued the country for more than a year and a half.

The significance of the attack, analysts say, is the target, timing and element of surprise, three factors that may force a closer look at the Saudi government's efforts in fighting terror.

"Here is an American consulate that was targeted. It was penetrated. They managed to go through the security, which should have been as tough and as solid as a shield. It shows that American targets in Saudi Arabia, no matter how well protected, are vulnerable to these kind of attacks," said Abdul Khaleq Abdulla, an Emirates-based political analyst.

The consulate—like all US diplomatic buildings and other Western compounds in Saudi Arabia—has been heavily fortified and guarded since last year's series of bombings against targets housing foreigners, making it one of the most protected locations in the Red Sea port city of Jeddah. Guard posts are located on the corners of the compound. A road open to civilian traffic runs along part of the wall.

The attack appears to be a message from militants that despite an aggressive crackdown by Saudi authorities, sleeper cells remain intact and able to launch spectacular attacks.

"This was a very hard target to attack, and they pulled it off. Whether Saudi security forces were lax, following their successes over the past few months, is debatable," said Diaa Rashwan, a Cairo-based expert on Muslim militants.

In Washington, US state department spokesperson Adam Ereli said security measures at the consulate were good enough so that most employees were able to retreat to safe areas. First, he said, the attackers were forced to abandon their vehicle when prevented by security from entering the compound; then because of "security measures in place" they were also unable to penetrate the building where the consulate offices were located.

"The Marine security guard detachment and the regional security officer assigned to the consulate general took defensive measures to protect the employees on the compound at that time, alerting them to the attack and moving them to safe haven areas," Ereli said.

Whether or not the attackers accomplished their goal, the analysts said the midday attack will certainly boost the morale of extremist groups and their sympathizers and raise questions about the effectiveness of the Saudi government's efforts to rein them in.

"We have seen a drop in terrorism and the violence in Saudi Arabia, which lends itself to the claim that the Saudis were successful, that they were doing something and they were serious about it. But attacks like these are beyond any state's control and put a complete and total end to it," said Abdulla.

The attack was well received on websites with militant links, something both Abdulla and Rashwan said was expected.

"Their confidence will be boosted, especially after the Saudi government had succeeded in the past few months in their crackdown. This attack will encourage others to carry out similar attacks, and will lift their morale after several setbacks. For the government, this was a security failure. For the militants, this was a military victory," Rashwan said. He said it was significant that the attack came after a lull and without warning.

"The Americans usually provide warnings of possible terror threats. This time, there were none," he said.

In Washington, Adel al-Jubeir, foreign affairs adviser to Crown Prince Abdullah, said the government had been at a higher threat level because of expectations of an attack.

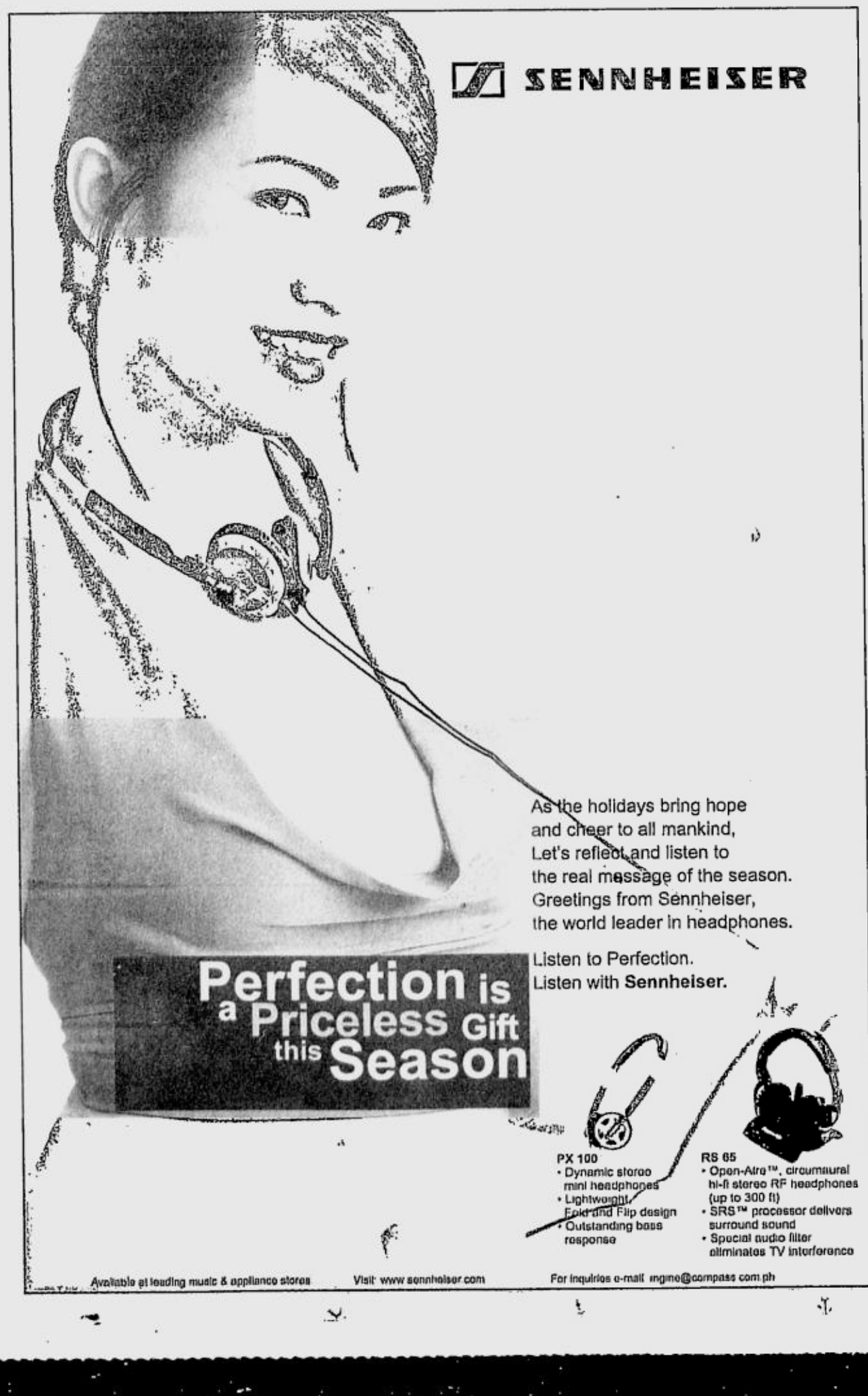
"We had indications that led us to increase the level of alert and to beef up security in Jeddah and in other areas," he said.

The series of attacks on Western targets in Saudi Arabia started in 2003, when car bombs targeted three compounds housing foreign workers in Riyadh. Since then, the government has made significant efforts to end terrorism in the kingdom, notably in an intense crackdown on Islamic militant cells that has included arresting and killing many key militants. It has clamped down on charities suspected of funneling money to terrorists, and initiated a public relations campaign to undermine support for militants.

The result seems to have been a quieting of attacks—until Monday.

Monday's attack was the first high-profile assault since May, when 22 people were killed, including 19 foreigners, by militants who took over a resort complex in Khobar and held hostages for 25 hours. *AP*

SMOKE rises following an explosion in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, Monday after Islamic militants attacked the heavily guarded US consulate in Jeddah with explosives and machine guns. AP



Bush insists on Jan. 30 Iraq polls

BAGHDAD—The presidents of Iraq and the United States vowed Monday to stick to the Jan. 30 date for landmark elections, despite a flare-up of violence that left about 100 dead in three days.

"I assured the president that it is necessary for the Iraqi people to vote on Jan. 30," said US President George W. Bush, speaking to reporters at the White House with interim Iraqi President Ghazi al-Yawar at his side.

Yawar said after their meeting that it was unfair to describe the insurgents aiming to derail the polls as Sunni Muslims.

The rebels "are a mix of people who have one thing in common: hatred to the Iraqi society and hatred to democracy. People who are trying to stop us from having our first elections," he said.

Yawar appealed for international help in holding the elections after at least 24 people were killed in attacks on Sunday alone and about 100 in a three-day period.

The killings included five more US marines whose deaths in attacks last week in the restive province of Al-Anbar, west of Baghdad, were announced by the US military on Monday.

Three Iraqi national guards were killed and 11 wounded in a roadside bomb attack close to the town of Hilla, south of Baghdad.

But speaking in Washington with NBC television ahead of his talks with Bush, Yawar rejected calls that have come from Iraqi political parties and even a top UN official for the elections to be postponed.

"After reviewing the situation, I think the worst thing to do is to postpone elections. This will give a tactical victory to the insurgents, to the forces of darkness.

"We are asking the United Nations, the whole international community, to help us."

A senior UN official had warned at the weekend that elections could not be held in the current climate of violence, backing warnings by Sunni politicians in Iraq.

Lakhdar Brahimi, a special advisor to UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and until recently UN envoy in Iraq, said the Jan. 30 vote could only take place "if first and foremost security improves."

The United States is already planning to boost troops numbers in Iraq to 150,000 for the elections from the current 138,000, the highest number since May 2003 when it declared an end to major combat in Iraq. *AFP*

US resists Kyoto talks at int'l climate confab

BUENOS AIRES—The United States resisted calls Monday for talks on the Kyoto Protocol at an international conference here on climate change.

Delegates at the UN-sponsored meeting lamented the refusal by the United States, as well as China and India, to sign the treaty aimed at reducing greenhouse gases.

The Kyoto accords, the world's most ambitious and complex environmental treaty, legally commit 39 industrial nations and territories, including Japan and Europe, to trim their output of six greenhouse gases, especially carbon dioxide, by at least 5.2 percent by 2012, compared with 1990 levels.

Russia's ratification last month gave the protocol the final stamp of approval needed to go into force on Feb. 16.

But the list of signatories to the international pact does not include the United States, China and India—all major culprits in rising greenhouse gas emissions. China and India produce more greenhouse gasses as their economies rapidly grow.

And the United States, the largest producer of global-warming gases, on Monday rejected any change of position.

Washington's senior climate change negotiator, Harlan Watson, called any talk of a post-2012 regime, when Kyoto runs out, "totally premature."

"Economic development is essential for adopting measures to address climate change," he said.

"For the United States, any future treaty should not hurt the country's economy and should cover every country in the world, including developing nations," he said. US President George W. Bush's administration rejected the treaty in 2001. *AFP*

More solons seek Annan's resignation

WASHINGTON—More US congressional Republicans called Monday for the resignation of UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, with one suggesting the UN chief should go to jail.

"Kofi Annan must go," Republican Rep. Dan Burton told reporters as he commented on the UN's oil-for-food program and the billions of dollars former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein had managed to divert from it.

Scott Garrett, a Republican from Indiana, said the question was whether Annan "should be in jail."

Vito Fossella of New York said "not only should Kofi Annan step aside because of oil-for-food, but for the good of the UN and its ability to carry on its missions."

Rep. Jeff Flake declined to call for Annan's resignation, but said UN cooperation was needed in the investigation of the oil-for-food program.

Flake and some of his colleagues have proposed legislation that would withhold part of UN dues until the world body fully cooperates with the probe. *AFP*

Bombs explode in seven Spanish cities; 18 hurt

MADRID—Explosions rattled seven Spanish cities following telephone warnings from the armed Basque separatist group ETA, a resurgence of violence after months of keeping a low profile since the deadly Madrid train bombings by Muslim militants.

Officials said ETA chose a highly symbolic day for a fresh show of force—Monday's anniversary of Spain's constitution, which established a system of regional autonomy that the Basque group rejects.

The nearly simultaneous explosions in coffee shops, parks and other public places slightly injured 18 people. They stretched across Spain, with the apparent message that ETA can strike wherever it wants—even with security forces on high alert because of five blasts Friday claimed by ETA.

"Once again ETA has tried to scare us on a special day," Interior Minister Jose Antonio Alonso said. "But today has to continue to be the day of the constitution, not ETA's day."

The bombs went off in Valladolid, Leon and Santillana del Mar in the north, Avila and Ciudad Real in central Spain, Alicante in the east and Malaga in the south. They came about an hour after two calls from people claiming to represent the outlawed group to the Basque newspaper Gara.

Shortly before midnight another call to Gara warned of a bomb outside the headquarters of the conservative, opposition Popular Party. After a two-hour search that included a bomb-sniffing dog unit, police declared it a false alarm, the news agency Efe said. Police had sealed off streets around the headquarters, evacuated bars and restaurants and closed the nearest subway station, the agency said.

Authorities had time to evacuate the places mentioned in the earlier calls, although in at least two instances the explosions occurred in places not referred to by the callers.

That was the case in the town of Santillana del Mar, where 15 people were hurt by shards of glass or chunks of wood when a bomb destroyed a tourist information booth in a park. Three people were wounded in Ciudad Real when a bomb exploded while authorities were evacuating a coffee shop.

The blasts were apparently calculated to avoid loss of life. One Basque analyst said this showed the constraints ETA faces after the March 11 Madrid train bombings—which killed 191 people—and the ensuing nationwide revulsion over terrorism.

ETA is blamed for more than 800 deaths since the late 1960s, and was initially blamed for the March 11 attacks until the government acknowledged an Islamic link.

"ETA wants to sow fear. It wants to draw attention, but cannot afford to kill people. That's why they set off bombs the size of a bar of chocolate," said former ETA member Teo Uriarte, who now leads an association working for peace in the region.

Uriarte suggested the bombings might have been planned by young Basque militants acting in ETA's name without specific orders from the group's leaders.

Analysts in the Basque region say the group is deeply divided among newer, young members eager to keep fighting and older leaders more inclined to negotiate an end to the conflict. *AP*

CANADA • JAPAN • CANADA • JAPAN • CANADA • JAPAN

CAREGIVERS FOR CANADA & JAPAN

VGB CENTER FOR TRAINING & DEV'T CORP.
the first and the most respected caregiver school in the Philippines since 1994 invites everyone seeking a bright future for himself and his family to join our successful graduates who are now happily working as caregivers all over the world..

PARTIAL LIST OF OUR SUCCESFULL GRADUATES NOW IN CANADA

ARACELI ARANETA	- MIDWIFE	FRANCIS GARCIA	- BSC	LAILA DALIVA	- MIDWIFE
JOSEPINE GOMEZ	- MIDWIFE	KATHERINE SEPTIMO	- DENT.	VINCENT CINCO	- POLSCI
LEONIDA DULDULAO	- M.PROG.	RONALYN SAMONTE	- BSCS	REMEDIOS BATERINA	- BSPT
CHERYL SANTIAGO	- MEDSEC	DANIEL GALANGA	- ART	MYLENE EDROZO	- BS BID
SALVACION OCAMPO	- BSBA	LILIBETH AGUSTIN	- BSA	ARNOLD BATAD	- BSBA
MA. FE GOTERA	- COMSEC	JENNIFER LLANES	- BSMT	ANALISA SAGER	- BSA
CARMENCITA VALIENTE	- BSC	JOHANNA VASOL	- COM MGT.	AILEEN DEL ROSARIO	- OPTO
VENERANDA AUSTRIA	- SECT'L	JOSEPHINE YUMANG	- BSC	JUANROSE FULGENCIO	- BSCE
SYLVIA SU	- BSN	MARISSA DE JESUS	- TTE	GRACE LYNN LONTOC	- MIDWIFE
RINA BARBACENA	- AGRI.	JOSEFINE ESQUIVEL	- BSC	CHERRY C LUMABAS	- BEED
ARTURO ESTILLORE	- A.TRANS	AIRENE DATINGUINDO	- COMSEC	MARITES BALUYOT	- BOA
FROILAN YSMAEL	- AB ENG	ROSALIE FRESCO	- BSCE	JANICE SINGSON	- BSPT
JENNIFER CELESTINO	- BSCA	GINA MIJARES	- AGRI	SHEILA JANICE JAVIER	- EMTP
GLADISH APANGAN	- COMSEC	EDITHA BERSAMINA	- BSC	ROMEL RICHARD ADAM	- AB ECO
LANIER UTANES	- BSC	LUDIVINA DEL MUNDO	- MEDSEC	JINKY DELA CRUZ	- ADMC
AGNES BIONEDA	- MIDWIFE	HELEN GALEON	- BSN	MARIA LEE ALIBOSO	- BSC
OLIVIA GUTIERREZ	- BSCS	MA. ISABEL TAGUE	- BSC	JOVE POLIRAN	- BSBA
RAFFERT GUTIRREZ	- BSCS	ROBERTO COMISARIO	- BSCS	EMMA ROSE GINO	- ARCH.
ETHEL RHEA REYES	- BSC	MARI ALEGRE	- BSPT	MAGIE MACAYANA	- ACS
KAREN CARLOS	- AB MC	MELY OMADTO	- MEDSEC.	LUCIANO MANALANG	- BSBA
CINDY AMADA	- FINEART	JESSAMINE FRANCISCO	- AB ECO	BERNICE ARGUELLES	- SECT'L
MARISSA RUIZ	- BSN	EUFEMIA RICO	- BSCE	MARIVILLA TIATCO	- BSBA
SOCORRO WASIN	- BSC	ANNA SIERRA ITURIAGA	- ASHRM	GLENN GATCHALIAN	- BSBA

LIVE-IN CAREGIVER SKILLS ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM FOR CANADA
TESDA ACCREDITATION # 13-0069 B2000
- 6 months full time
- must have completed 4 full semesters of college
- at least 18 years old
- Monday to Friday classes

HEALTHCARE PROVIDER COURSE FOR JAPAN & OTHER COUNTRIES
TESDA ACCREDITATION # NTR0313060223
- 6 months including OJT
- at least 2nd year college or 72 units
- at least 18 years old
- Saturday & Sunday classes only

* NIHONGO CLASS ALSO AVAILABLE *

FREE ORIENTATION! ENROLL NOW!

MAIN OFFICE : Suite 305 Virka Bldg., 1191 EDSA cor. Roosevelt Ave., (Muñoz) QC Tel Nos. 371-5895 • 411-3804 415-0960 Fax: 372-9085
QUEZON CITY : 2nd Flr De Dios Bldg., 138 timog Ave cor EDSA (infront of GMA 7) QC Tel Nos. 925-6044 • 925-7472 • 925-7567 • 925-7568
MANILA : 1655 Taft Ave., Malate Manila (infront of PCU and PWU) Tel Nos. 450-1834 • 525-1753 • 450-1835

VGB SINCE 1994

Diana wanted to elope with guard, video says

WASHINGTON—Princess Diana thought about running away from the Royal household with her bodyguard, with whom she fell in love about four years into her marriage, according to videotape broadcast by NBC on Monday.

"When I was 24, 25, I fell deeply in love with somebody who worked in this environment... I was quite happy to give all this up... just to go off and live with him," she said in the videotape, made in 1992 by her public speaking coach, former actor Peter Settelen.

NBC said the object of her affections was Barry Mannakee, a married man who was killed in a motorcycle accident in 1987. By the time their relationship developed, Diana suspected her husband Prince Charles was secretly seeing Camilla Parker Bowles, a former girlfriend.

The princess, who was killed in a car crash in Paris in 1997, said she believed Mannakee had been "bumped off" after their relationship came to light.

In the second installment of the NBC News special, Diana also talked about the breakup of her parents' marriage. Her mother left when she was 6 years old and after hiring a string of nannies, her father sent her to boarding school at the age of nine, leaving her craving love and affection.

Of Mannakee she said: "I was like a little girl in front of him the whole time. Desperate for praise... I was always wandering around trying to see him. I just wore my heart on my sleeve and was only happy when he was around."

Mannakee was moved from protecting Diana and dismissed from royal service a few months later. Charles informed her of Mannakee's death while they were both in a limousine heading to a glitzy function in Cannes, she said. *Reuters*

EUROPE'S NO. 1 ALL NATURAL
POTENSAN®
www.potensan.com
SUPER SEX pill
For Men..... and Women
Stronger, Harder, More Sustained Performance
Up to 3 days residual effect
Increased Sexual Desire and Lubrication
• 100% natural herbs
• Contains NO CHEMICALS that cause side effects
• Proven safe and very effective
• BFAD - Approved
Once you've tried it you won't want to live life without it!
For more information, pls. call our Hotline:
Mon to Sat: (02) 843-1586
(02) 843-1411 from 8 am to 6 pm
Available at:
mercury drug Watsons
& other leading drugstores nationwide

Cali drug kingpin faces US court in chains

MIAMI—The most powerful drug lord ever extradited by Colombia appeared chained before a US judge on Monday, and his lawyer said he would fight US charges he ran his multibillion-dollar business from a Colombian jail cell.

Gilberto Rodriguez Orejuela, a former boss of the Cali cartel once considered responsible for 80 percent of the cocaine smuggled into the United States, shuffled into court in Miami in shackles, sandals and olive green prison garb for a brief initial appearance before a magistrate.

Listening to translators through headphones, the gray-haired 65-year-old *capo* gave his name and age in Spanish.

Judge William Turnoff set Dec. 27 for his arraignment, at which he is expected to plead not guilty.

US prosecutors accuse Rodriguez Orejuela of conspiracy to import cocaine by hiding drugs in concrete posts, chlorine cylinders, watermelons and vegetables, and conspiracy to distribute cocaine. They accuse him of killing or bribing witnesses, and conspiracy to launder money even after he was jailed in Colombia in 1995.

They want the courts to seize $2.1 billion in unspecified assets they say were the proceeds of the money laundering.

In a radio interview in Colombia recorded before his extradition on Friday, the former drug lord said he and his brother Miguel had lost their fortunes due to legal persecution and lawyers' fees.

"Saying the Rodriguez brothers are worth millions of dollars is an attack on us. I think it's one of the worst types of attacks," he said.

During the interview he also added a new detail to his well-known collaboration with authorities in hunting down his cocaine industry rival Pablo Escobar, who was gunned down on a Medellin rooftop in 1993. *Reuters*

WORLDBRIEFS

Saddam's trial to start after polls

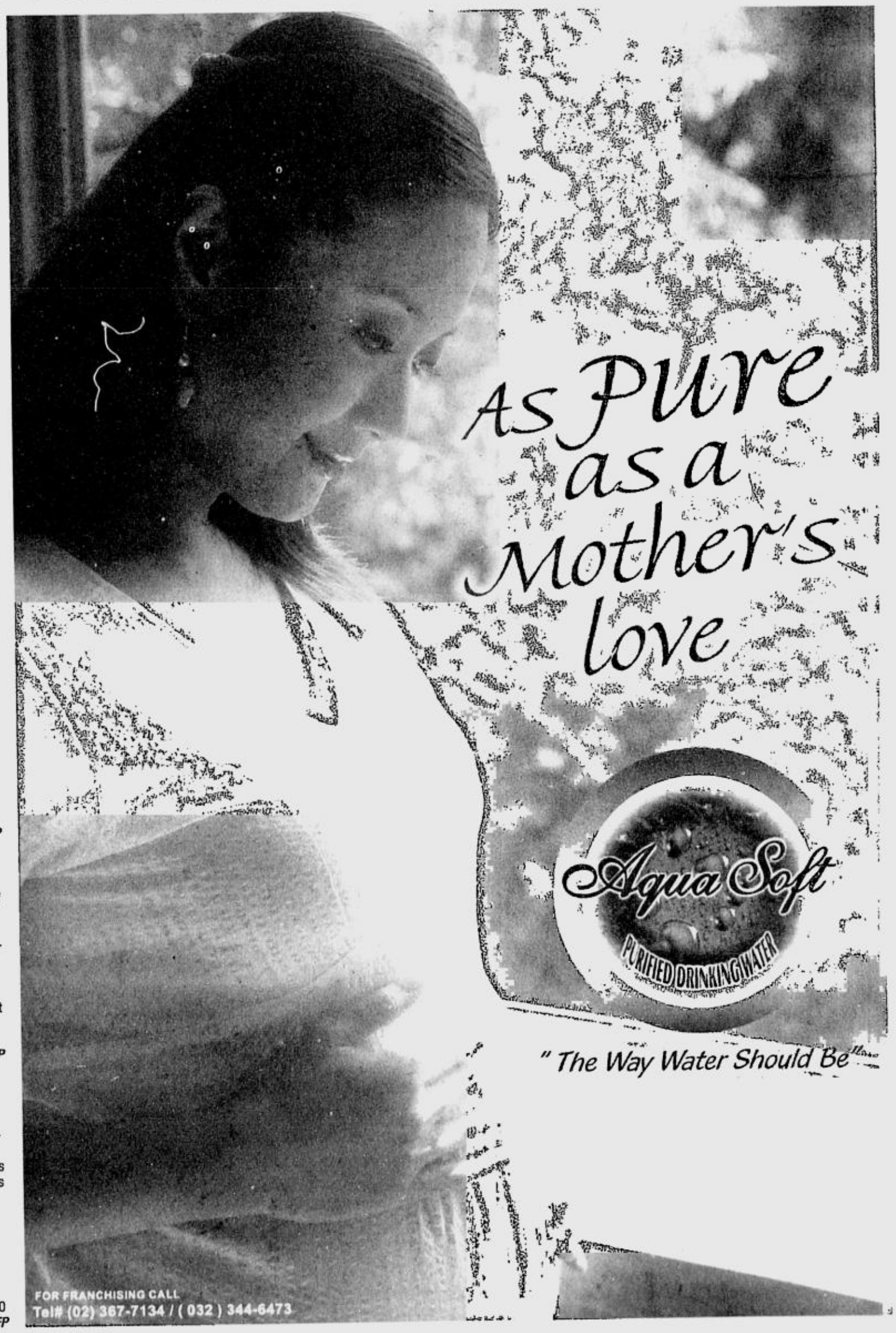
WASHINGTON—Jailed Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein will go on trial after Iraq's January election, the country's transportation minister Louei Hatim Sultan al-Aris said Monday. "It won't take so long, but it will take place after the January election," al-Aris said after participating in a think tank discussion here on Iraq's planned election. Iraqi officials had previously said Saddam's trial would open before the scheduled election. Asked what body will oversee the trial in Iraq, al-Aris replied: "It's a sort of independent institute that was formed from Iraqi judges... (that) is going to question him." Captured in December 2003, the former Iraqi strongman is currently in US custody. US officials have said 21 investigative judges have been preparing the groundwork for the historic trial, but that unrest has hampered the collection of evidence. *AFP*

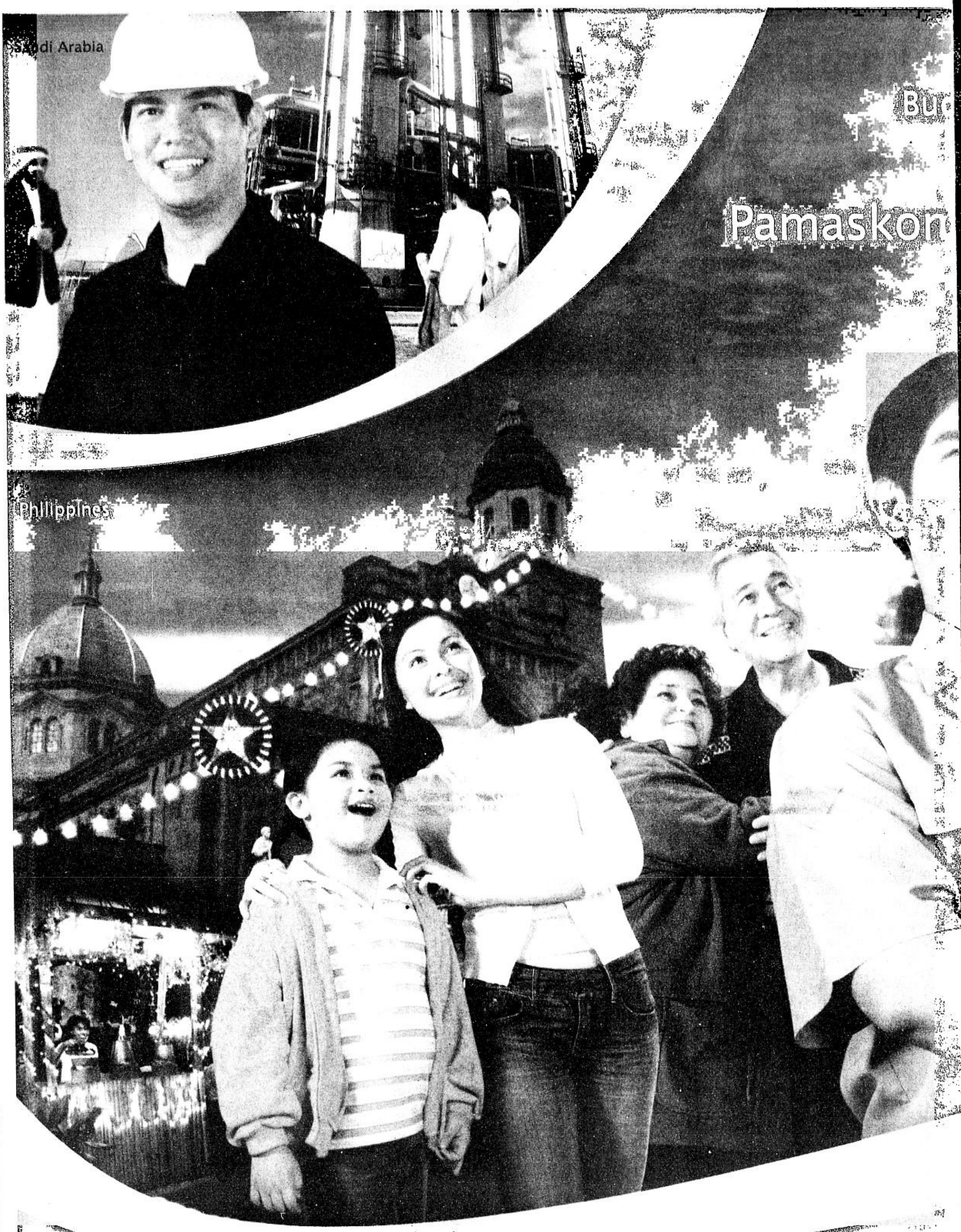
Karzai to be sworn in as president

KABUL—Hamid Karzai was to be sworn in as Afghanistan's first democratically elected president under tight security Tuesday, with senior members of the US government hailing the inauguration as a landmark. With Kabul on high alert after remnants of the ousted Taliban regime threatened to disrupt proceedings, Karzai was set to be sworn in before foreign dignitaries including US Vice President Dick Cheney and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld. The inauguration at 11:30 (0700 GMT) comes nearly two months after 46-year-old Karzai won a landslide in an election that passed off without major bloodshed, despite threats from the hardline Islamic Taliban to mount attacks to derail the vote. Cheney hailed the inauguration as a "great and historic moment for the people of Afghanistan" and praised the US role in bringing democracy to the country. *AFP*

Cuba releases dissident journalist

HAVANA—Cuba on Monday released journalist Jorge Olivera, the seventh dissident freed since Nov. 29 from a group of 75 opponents jailed last year in a Communist government crackdown. Olivera, sentenced to 18 years, attributed his release to EU diplomacy and the mobilization of the prisoners' relatives. "Several elements contributed to the liberation of seven dissidents these last few days," Olivera, 43, said a few hours after his release. "There is the firm and determined position of the EU and the courageous attitude of our mothers and wives." Fourteen of the "Group of 75" dissidents arrested in March 2003 have been released since April 2004, including seven in the last eight days who were freed due to health problems. The dissidents had been sentenced to between seven and 28 years. "Olivera was released because his health is very delicate," said Elizardo Sanchez Santa Cruz, a prominent dissident who heads the Cuban Committee for Human Rights and National Reconciliation. The committee says Cuba holds more than 300 political prisoners. *AFP*





SMART DUTY FREE HOLIDAY EXTREME RIDE PROMO

Get a chance to win brand new Ford vehicles or hundreds of SMART Buddy phone kits when you shop at Duty Free Fiestamall.

DUTY FREE PHILIPPINES

THE BEST THINGS IN LIFE ARE FREE.

SMART PAMILYANG PINOY

SMART IDD
Pamilyang Pinoy

Every 10-minute IDD call you make this Christmas gives you back P10 worth of free load when you register to SMART Pamilyang Pinoy. Just type REG <your name>*<address>*<NA>*<NA> and send to 433.

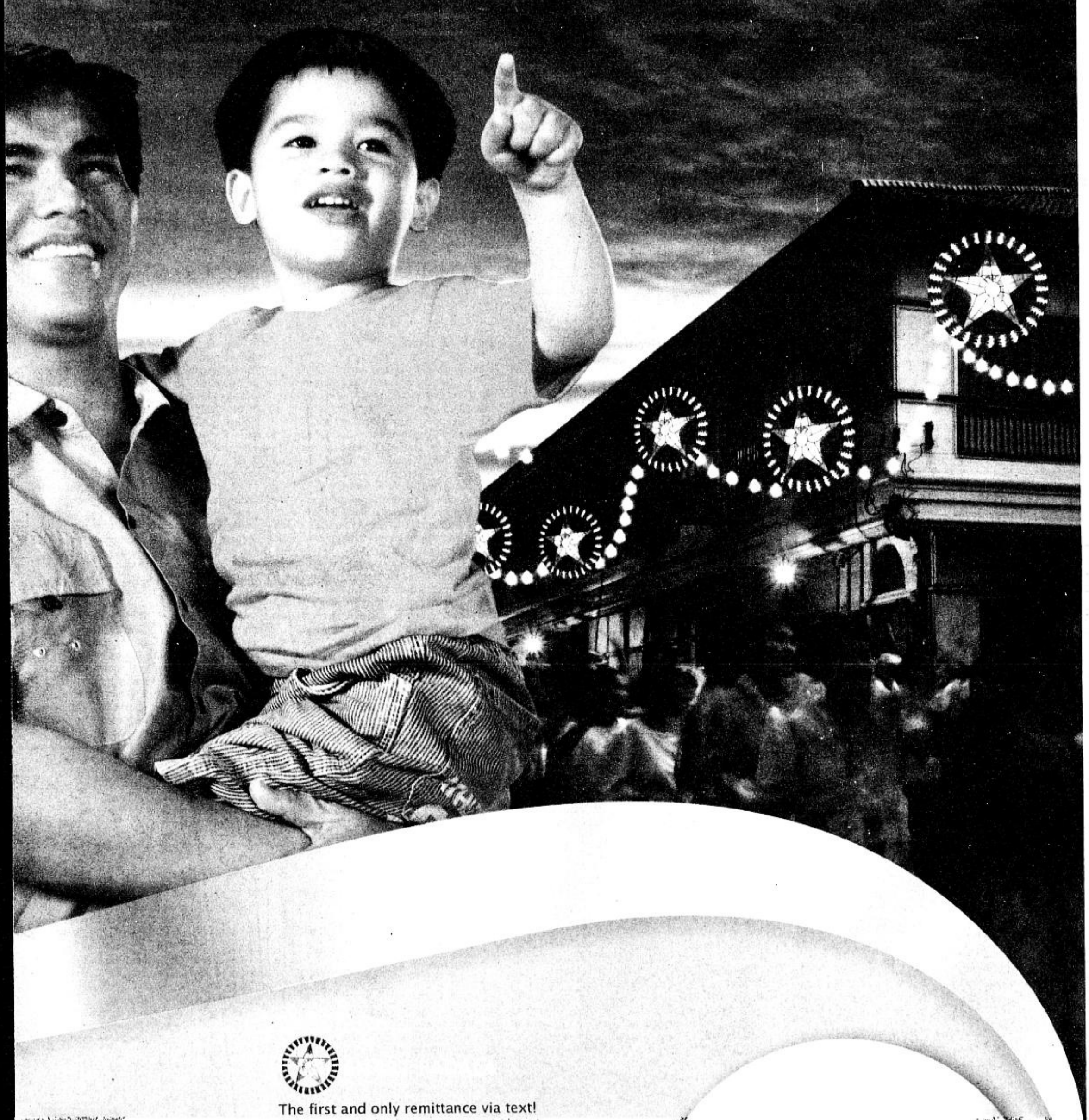
make an IDD call, dial + Country Code Area Code Party's Number.

What's more, you can catch your favorite celebrities at the SMART Pamilyang Pinoy Roadshow as they perform live at Fiestamall, Manila on the following dates: · December 12 with Rachelle Ann Go, Dang Cruz, Chynna Ortaleza, Tyrone Perez · December 19 and 22 with Sarah Geronimo, Mark Bautista, Dang Cruz, Chynna Ortaleza, Tyrone Perez

Free Christm
Buddy Super
arrival for al
balikbayans!

ng puso naming inaalay sa mga kababayang
nagsisikap at nagsasakripisyo abroad ang

g Handog ng SMART sa Pamilyang OFW



ALUBONG
PAWAY
NA!

is: loot bags and SMART
SIM 3 Packs upon
arriving
ang

The first and only remittance via text!
Now available to both SMART Buddy and Talk N' Text subscribers. Register for SMART Padala at designated SM Malls and get a gift pack and a free IDD call.

SMART PADALA

PHONE KIT PRICE DROP AT FIESTAMALL

Come to Duty Free Fiestamall and avail of prepaid phone kits at more affordable, "pasalubong" prices!

I ♥ SMART
Simply Amazing!

ISSN 0116-2642 INQUIRER Vol. 19 No. 364

OPINION

Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net

Text us your feedback: inquirer opi name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-6808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.

•100% soy ink•

Publisher ISAGANI YAMBOT
Editor in Chief LETTY JIMENEZ-MAGSANOC
Managing Editor JOSE MA. D. NOLASCO
Associate Editor ABELARDO S. ULANDAY
Associate Editor for Readership ROSARIO A. GARCELLANO
News Editor ARTEMIO T. ENGRACIA JR. • *Chief, News Day Desk* NILO B. PAUROM
Opinion Editor JORGE V. ARUTA
National Editor PERGENTINO B. BANDAYREL JR.
City Editor GERRY LIRIO
Senior Desk Editor JUAN V. SARMIENTO JR.
Editorial Consultant AMANDO DORONILA
Chief Photographer ERNIE U. SARMIENTO
Art & Design Director LYNETT A. VILLARIBA

Board Chairman MARIXI R. PRIETO
President ALEXANDRA PRIETO-ROMUALDEZ
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing RENATO R. REINOSO
Senior Vice President for Corporate Services DAVID O. VALDES
VP for Advertising FELIPE R. OLARTE
AVP for Circulation GLORIA P. LARDIZABAL

All rights reserved. Except as permitted by law, no part of the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means stored in a database or retrieval system without its prior written permission.

Root causes

EDITORIAL

THE WORLD knows Oxfam as a development, relief and campaigning organization that works with others to find lasting solutions to poverty and suffering around the world. Right here, in the wake of flood and landslides that killed more than a thousand people, Oxfam has sent teams to Real, Infanta and General Nakar in Quezon Province where they will spend the next four weeks providing immediate relief for approximately 68,000 people. Oxfam will assist with water and sanitation relief while providing materials such as plastic sheeting to improve the living conditions in the evacuation centers and homes damaged by the floods and landslides. Afterwards, it will also provide seeds to farmers, fishnets to fisherfolk, and other basic tools and materials so that people can rebuild their livelihoods. The Oxfam teams will also survey the needs of the people they help, including water sources and the quality of water to ensure that waterborne diseases are prevented from spreading.

A great deal of the difficult task of helping people help themselves is undertaken by groups such as Oxfam, and when such groups speak out, people should listen.

In a report released this week, Oxfam focused on the decreasing levels of foreign aid money set aside for development NGOs by rich countries. It warns that the UN's Millennium Development Goals on poverty reduction are being put at risk. It also decries what it perceives to be the tendency to attach too many conditions to foreign assistance, such as spending caps and fiscal targets to foreign aid contributions.

In the same report, Oxfam expressed concern that anti-terrorism efforts are endangering foreign aid budgets, with security concerns taking priority over poverty reduction in dictating where foreign aid funds are spent. For example, over the past three years, levels of American aid to Israel, Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Turkey and Afghanistan have equaled the aid to the rest of the world combined.

In London, Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf, together with British Prime Minister Tony Blair, issued a joint statement in which they manifested their devotion to the War on Terror, but also said that the war was a short-term military approach to the issue. Significantly, the two leaders also called for a long-term approach to fighting terrorism, which entails attacking the root causes of the problem. They agreed that these root causes were linked to poverty, deprivation and denial of freedom to people. Pakistan's president was more emphatic in an interview with the BBC: "We are fighting [terrorism] in its immediate context, but we are not fighting it in its strategic, long-term context."

Musharraf pointedly remarked, "What gives rise to a young man or woman to give up her or his life? It is the political disputes and we need to resolve them and also illiteracy and poverty... These combined are breeding grounds of extremism and terrorism."

The statements of Oxfam and of the Pakistani president are, in a sense, two sides of the same coin. Groups such as Oxfam cannot do their work in conflict-ridden areas, and suffer when foreign aid is curtailed to buy bombs instead of allocating funds to help people emerge from poverty. But prudent leaders who use military methods also realize that total war cannot be waged forever. Armed might is, at best, from the point of view of those engaged in statecraft, a delaying operation if the root causes of conflict aren't addressed.

Hermann Goering uttered the notorious Nazi slogan, "Guns before butter," which indicates that only a mentality that glorifies conquest and demeans humanity thinks that bullets can do more than growing and sharing food. Contentment breeds security, after all. Armed conflict only breeds hatred and misery.

Both Oxfam and Musharraf in a sense have made similar criticisms of American policy, which presumes security can be the offshoot of waging war. These views from divergent sources should make Filipinos pause to reflect on our national priorities. The Philippines has been made anxious by terrorists and terrorism, but wiser counsel says peace and quiet can only be achieved by reducing the incidence of poverty, and by educating people and making them healthier. A more peaceful and productive country cannot be achieved at the point of a gun.

End the debate, ban all logging

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE DEBATE has started again: to ban or not to ban all logging, both legal and illegal. As usual the debaters are divided between those who argue for a total log ban to save what remains of the fast dwindling forests, and those who argue that licensed loggers are good because they protect the forests from illegal loggers who would otherwise denude them. Curiously, among the latter are Michael Defensor, the new chief of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, whose primary concern should be to preserve the environment.

The legal loggers, so goes the latter argument parroted by the DENR, cut only mature trees, employ forest rangers who guard the residual forests and replant the denuded areas. Without them guarding the forests, illegal loggers would cut everything and leave the forests destroyed. After them would come the charcoal-makers who would cut whatever is left, including the seedlings which are easier to turn into charcoal, and after them would come the slash-and-burn farmers, the *kaingineros*.

The trouble with this argument is that we have had licensed loggers and concessionaires and the so-called "sustainable development" for decades, but our virgin forests keep getting raped at an alarming rate. If licensed concessionaires are protecting the forests, where are they? How come the forests they are supposed to protect keep dwindling? And if they are replanting and reforesting, where are these reforested areas? How come denuded forest areas are spreading?

The only "sustainable development" people see is the continued growth of the wealth of logging families. The well-known names in Mindanao are the Almendrases, Antoninos and Plazas, all of whom have members of the younger generation elected to Congress. But the mountains of Mindanao are as bald as the head of Pugo. What did they do when they still had the logging concessions? Did they do any reforestation? Where are these reforested areas?

In short, the theory of "sustainable development" is just that, a theory, and not a practical solution. I suspect that it was an idea thought up and fed by the loggers to the DENR. The government likes the idea because it relieves them of the job of guarding and reforesting the mountains.

In fact, I think that is one reason Defensor is defending the legal loggers: he knows his department alone cannot do the job it is supposed to do. There is never enough money or personnel for that. And there are always loggers to use as convenient scapegoats whenever anything goes wrong, such as the recent landslides and floods that killed hundreds of people and destroyed hundreds of millions of pesos worth of crops and property.

The DENR is among the most coveted Cabinet positions in the government. So many officials, environmentalists and non-environmentalists alike, have taken turns running it, but nobody has been able to make a difference. Forest denudation continues at an alarming rate.

If they cannot do anything to save the forests, why do they covet the job? Is it because the loggers who make a lot of money from the forests are generous to those who cooperate with them? And not only loggers but also miners, quarry operators, commercial fishermen and land-grabbers?

Should we have a total or selective ban on logging? The answer seems simple: we have had selective logging for decades and it is obviously a failure. Isn't it time we tried the other method?

With a total log ban, we would know that any log or lumber we see is illegal. Right now, we cannot tell the difference between a legally cut log and one that has been illegally cut. We have to take the word of the owner that it was legally acquired.

In fact, it is common practice now for logging concessionaires to cut timber illegally outside their concessions and then claim they came from their own concessions. The DENR's forest rangers cannot prove otherwise. And anyway they are so poorly paid that it is easy for the loggers to convince them that they have not done anything wrong. With a total log ban, this ploy will no longer work. A log is illegally cut wherever it comes from.

But where will we get wood for construction and furniture-making? Do what other countries without virgin forests do: import from countries foolish enough to cut their own forests. Japan imported most of our logs during the heyday of the logging tycoons.

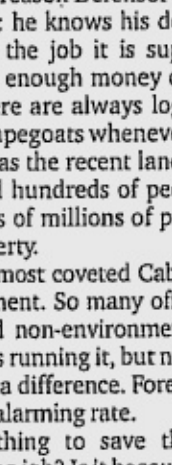
Or go into tree farming. The conventional wisdom in tree farming in the Philippines is to plant either fruit trees or the higher-priced hardwood trees for their wood, such as narra, kamagong, mahogany, or molave. But these are slow-growing trees and take decades to grow big enough to be harvested. Before that, the farmer's family starves.

But why not plant fast-growing trees along with the hardwoods so they can be harvested earlier for the farmer to live on while waiting for the more costly hardwood to mature? The acacia and giant *ipil-ipil* can be harvested in five years. What's more, they are self-propagating. The pods pop when ripe and spread their seeds, which germinate quickly.

The same is true with the lowly *kakawati*, or *madre cacao*, which is so easy to propagate. Stick a twig into the soil and it grows. That is why we see *kakawati* trees growing in rows along property lines. Their branches were used as posts for fencing and then grew into trees. Leave a *kakawati* tree alone in a forest for a few years and there would soon be a whole forest of them. What's more, the *kakawati* bears in great profusion beautiful pink blossoms that can compare to the more famous cherry blossoms of Japan.

Giving

THERE'S THE RUB



Conrado de Quiros

THE VARIOUS TV networks repeatedly mentioned it: how heartwarming it was to see people giving cash, goods and services without a thought. One station showed a relief center full of youth who had volunteered to help, packing things and generally putting order to the bedlam that is relief centers.

I agreed entirely. I had been going to Mt. Carmel since last week and seen it too with my own eyes. Almost overnight a mountain of goods had arisen there from out of nowhere. By dint of word of mouth and text messages (finally the latter proved immensely useful, thank God for small miracles), people contributed from everywhere: sacks of rice, noodles, medicine, batteries, cooking pans. The back of the church turned into a veritable bazaar. There was a horde of volunteers, too, particularly youth who had decided to devote their sudden vacation to the pursuit of loftier things. There's a time for everything, as Ecclesiastes says. There's a time to Ragnarok and a time to sew the sacks (of rice).

It truly is heartwarming, and shows that we are not beyond hope or redemption as a people. It's always like this every time a disaster happens. And as disaster goes, what happened to Quezon Province last week is comparable only to the July-August floods of 1972 and the Mt. Pinatubo eruption of 1991 in scale of destruction. For some reason, disasters seem to bring out the best in us, the direr the catastrophe the more heroic our response. We rise as one to help others.

I've only three suggestions to add to the spirit of giving that fills us during these times.

The first is that we may do with rediscovering the spirit of humility along with it. I address that particularly to the networks, politicians and business associations that like to draw attention to their magnanimity. I find it irritating when TV hosts in particular take on the attitude that you find in the regular TV shows that offer to ease the pain of the needy and afflicted, one that half-expects the beneficiaries to fall on their knees and kiss the hand of their benefactors in eternal gratitude. That expectation being often realized in scenes that show precisely that, or at least that show the beneficiaries breaking into tears and with voices cracking profusely thanking their benefactors.

I'm not knocking gratitude. People ought to be grateful for being helped. But the givers can do as well with being more self-effacing. True giving is one where the giver disappears. The kind of giving where the giver looms larger than life is called PR. True giving is one that allows the recipient to cling to his dignity. And in any case, the victims in this case aren't all calling for charity, some are calling for help to bring them back on their feet. One farmer in Dingalan said it best: What they needed was seedlings to grow things with after they've cleared their fields of mud. A woman in Real also said she just needed a small amount for a new livelihood; she lost her tricycle to the floods.

But whether the need is for food or seedlings, medicine or capital, the enormousness of those needs must cow us to silence, or invisibility. Deacon Mario Van Loon, who's supervising the work in Mt. Carmel, suggests that enormousness when he says it will take at least half a year for the affected areas to raise themselves by their bootstraps. If there's any attitude to take here, it is that however you give, you can never give quite enough.

My second suggestion is for Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and other officials to stop saying let us unite and rise over this. At the very least, it is superfluous. All you have to do is go to the relief centers to see the spontaneous outpouring of sympathy from everyone and their sincere desire to help the victims. This country has never had problems uniting when beset by a common threat or affliction. Like I said, disasters bring out the best in us. You do not have to cajole Filipinos to rise above themselves during these times.

But more than this, the call is insidious. It is premised, like the same call that attended the kidnapping of Angelo de la Cruz et al., on forgetting who caused the disaster and filling our minds only with feel-good thoughts. Why on earth would I want to unite with the loggers—and the real criminals, to repeat, are the legal loggers and not the illegal ones—and rise over this with them? It was their logs that tumbled down the mountain and mangled the children who slept the sleep of the innocent, dreaming of Christmas, and buried them in the mud. I do not want to unite with them, I want to haul their asses to court and seek justice for the dead.

My last suggestion is for all of us. There's nothing more breathtaking than seeing people tying themselves to a tree and jumping into the floodwaters to rescue the drowning. There's nothing more inspiring than seeing the youth toiling day and night in relief centers and people everywhere chipping in to help the hapless. There's nothing more satisfying than public officials, businessmen and the rich of Metro Manila rushing to send trucks and choppers and equipment to the afflicted areas to rescue the hungry and dying.

But why in God's name do we have to wait for disasters to do this? Why can't public officials and businessmen and the rich simply do this by not pillaging the treasury, by paying decent wages and distributing goods through land and asset reform? Why can't we rise to heights of selflessness, or show an ardent desire to help others, or serve the people, as the activists put it, other than through relief operations? Why can't we tie ourselves to a tree or post and throw the other end to a country that is being swept away by the rampaging waters?

There's one other property of giving. Like God, it has no beginning and it has no end.

Wonderful people, awful gov't

COMMENTARY

Denis Murphy

"HOW does such a wonderful people wind up with such an awful government?" a reporter asked me recently.

I told him I didn't know. All the academic and ideological reasons offered to explain the contradiction falter once the Philippines is compared with its neighbors. Several Southeast and South Asian countries are as corrupt, colonized, religion-ridden, disaster-prone and violent as the Philippines, maybe more so, but still they progress, at least economically. The Philippines doesn't.

The ordinary people, the Metro Manila urban poor among them, are nearly as bad off now as they were in the mid 1960s, and yet they keep on organizing to work for a fairer deal from society. They are still hardworking, courteous, good-humored, welcoming and hopeful. Signs of all these were seen during the recent typhoons, and not only in Manila.

There are other signs, however, that their hopefulness is fading. Barbara Ward warned long ago that the world's quickest vanishing resource was the patience of the poor.

Since the mid-1960s we have had a dictatorship, a rebirth of democracy under President Corazon Aquino, a technocratic government under President Fidel V. Ramos, a long bad drama with President Joseph Estrada and what might be called "drift" under the present administration. Despite the various forms it has taken, the government has scarcely made any difference for the poor. Neither has the largest Christian population in Asia had the moral impact that might be expected.

Reform efforts continue, but we should remember past efforts and how they fared. Present proposals for reform, for example, those outlined by Randy David in his column "Alternatives to a dysfunctional society" last Nov. 28, are pretty much the same as those that were tried and failed in the past, namely, authoritarian government (proposed by Washington SyCip), popular uprising (by F. Sionil Jose) and elite-dominated reform movements (by David himself).

It seems impossible to know for sure where to go until we answer the question raised in the first paragraph of this article and the answer is tested against the experience of other Asian countries. My own belief is that the answer to our problems will be quite different from those of other countries. Maybe since our elite has failed us, the answer must be to complement their influence with another social force: the ordinary poor people. But we must act.

What direction to take? Why not, as Robert Frost wrote in another content, choose the less traveled road?

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in the wood, and I,
I took the one less travelled
And that has made all the difference.

Maybe what is needed is an all-out effort to organize the poor into mass-based, democratic and non-violent people's organizations that can pursue their own goals in society, and muster enough people's participation to effectively influence the decisions that affect their lives. The people's organizations can be religion-inspired or otherwise, large or small, credit unions, labor unions, cooperatives, peasants' associations, urban poor groups, fishermen's associations, indigenous people's associations, homeowners' groups, etc. as long as the goals are set by the people and they have an understanding of people power and its role in transforming society from the bottom up.

Such an approach has never been undertaken wholeheartedly by reform-minded people.

At a recent workshop of NGO partners of the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace, the NGOs summarized all the problems they encountered in their work into four overall problems and found that to solve them, the main hope was organized political, social and economic pressure by the country's poor on the elite that now controls all decision-making.

The first of the four problem areas was "unbalanced use of natural resources," including among other matters land-grabbing, abusive mining and logging and exclusion of the rural and urban poor from land. The use of the country's resources is not "fair to all" as the Rotary signs demand.

The second problem was "fragile democracy," including militarization, corruption, elite control of government, unfair labor laws and other injustices.

The third area was called "homogenization of culture," for want of a better name. It concerns the current trend of mostly Western alien cultures to swamp the national cultures.

The fourth and final area concerned international free trade and the World Trade Organization. This concern was illustrated by the very real fear of the country's three million rice farmers that unlimited rice imports in the coming year will destroy their livelihood. They know the government is asking the WTO for a delay in the lifting of import controls, but they doubt it is making a truly all-out effort. There are few rich and influential players in rice production.

Maybe the country that made people power world famous at Edsa I will show that people power cannot only oust the bad groups, but bring in good ones which will take the goals of the poor as their own goals.

Denis Murphy works with the Urban Poor Associates.

Taxing virtues, subsidizing vices

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

MONDAY'S INQUIRER featured a full-page open letter to our Senate with most impressive signatories: former National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) Secretary Solita Collas-Monsod and several former finance secretaries: Vicente R. Jayme, Jesus P. Estanislao, Roberto de Ocampo, Ernest Leung.

The gist of the letter was simple: bite the bullet and push through with the increases in cigarette taxes. The letter was written in response to Congress' reluctance to support the Enrile Bill (Senate Bill 1815), itself a compromise around the heavily contested proposal to increase so-called "sin taxes" on cigarettes and alcohol.

The rationale behind sin taxes is that practices such as smoking and drinking should be taxed more heavily because they have social consequences, costs which are passed on to taxpayers. Congress' snail's pace in dealing with sin taxes once again shows our distorted priorities, and which can be summarized as taxing virtues and subsidizing vices. Since much has been said about the sin taxes, including Monsod's incisive column about three weeks ago summarizing the reasons we need to hike the tobacco taxes, I'm going to concentrate instead on the matter of "virtue taxes."

Promoting illiteracy

For starters, I'd suggest our former finance secretaries look into the Department of Finance's refusal to reconsider a plan to tax the sale, importation, printing and publication of books. The book trade has been exempted from the 10-percent value-added tax (VAT) but the finance people now want to lift the exemption, despite protests from the Philippine Educational Publishers' Association and the Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines.

Currently, Filipinos read far less than many of our Asian neighbors. There are many reasons for this, but the high cost of books is certainly the main obstacle to reading. Just look at the enthusiastic crowds at our book fairs, people of all ages browsing but many unable to buy because of the high prices. If current prices of books already seem astronomical, an additional 10-percent tax will send book sales plummeting even more rapidly. I wouldn't mind if the taxes are plowed back into developing a local book industry but that isn't happening either.

All around us, our neighbors have actually reduced import taxes on books to encourage their citizens to read more. Not only that, in Indonesia, Thailand and China, they've poured in money to translate as many books as possible. For all the international publicity around censorship in China, you'd be surprised at all the books they've been translating: from ponderous French philosophers to management gurus like Covey. Likewise, when I go to India, I go crazy running through their bookstores because they reprint, through special arrangements with the publishers, all the latest books.

We will pay for this neglect of books. Just think of the next generation of Filipino semi-literates teaching in our schools and writing textbooks far worse than the ones exposed recently. I predict, too, that we will lose out to our book-reading neighbors in the globalized international economy. It's not surprising we end up exporting Filipinos mainly to do mechanical work, rather than capturing a greater share of segments of the outsourcing market—software development, for example—where critical thinking skills are essential, skills honed from reading.

Penalizing hard work

Let's move to another example of "virtue taxes."

I have been getting complaints from *tiangge* vendors about the Bureau of Internal Revenue visiting and checking if they are issuing receipts. I know these vendors are making money but it's not like they're raking in millions. Many of them come from outside Manila, investing in transportation costs and using their Sundays to bring in extra income, some with homegrown vegetables and home-cooked products.

The government seems to go out of its way to tax entrepreneurship. It's not just the small businesses that are victimized. One reason for our economic stagnation is that we have a very low savings rate. But I'm not surprised here—people aren't strongly motivated to save because interest rates are so low and because the government imposes a 15-percent withholding tax on those tiny savings.

It just doesn't make sense, the way the government taxes frugality and small-business people trying to make an honest living, while corporate tax evaders go scot-free, while we postpone sin taxes.

Wages of sin

Let me get personal here as we move back to the sin taxes. I used to be a heavy smoker. How heavy was heavy? Here in the Philippines there were three-pack days, but overseas, I'd sometimes survive on one pack. Cigarette prices in the Philippines were, and still are, among the cheapest in the world, thanks to low taxes.

The same applies to alcohol. I enjoy my beer and I know that there's always a greater temptation to binge on a night out in Manila because alcoholic drinks are far too cheap here.

Sin taxes can help moderate consumption of cigarettes and alcohol, even as it generates government revenues. Yet we seem so reluctant to work on the sin taxes. Pardon the religious metaphors, but society will reap the wages of sin, if we continue to act so slowly. We hear propagandists for the tobacco firms arguing that impoverished tobacco farmers in Ilocos stand to lose from the proposed hike in sin taxes. But are they aware that diseases caused by alcohol and tobacco have consistently ranked among the leading causes of death in the Philippines?

Tobacco use isn't just linked to cancer but also heart diseases and chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases (asthma, bronchitis and emphysema). Much less has been said about the problems around alcohol abuse but liver disease—much of which is associated with alcoholism—now ranks 13th as a cause of death. We also don't talk enough about social problems around alcohol dependency, from work absenteeism to domestic violence.

We have to reduce our subsidies on vices. Let's push through with the sin taxes and allocate part of the revenues to public health programs. And yes, let's use part of it to develop alternative livelihoods for tobacco farmers.

A final word here: The government should rethink the cost-effectiveness of its tax strategy. It just doesn't make sense that the government is rushing to impose VAT on books to generate P272 million while dragging its feet on the sin taxes, which could bring in P11.3 billion. As for cracking the whip to collect taxes on small businesses' Christmas sales, amid government neglect of social services, the environment, the economy—why does the word "extortion" come to my mind?

The heart of Morocco

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

FEZ—Driving in from the southeast, down from the Atlas Mountains, one enters this former royal capital through the "new towns," or as the former French colonizers put it, the *"villes nouvelles."* These are typical suburbs, with wide roads, gated communities, lively commercial areas in modern dress.

But the real heart of the city, and indeed, the "symbolic heart of Morocco" is the medina, the old walled city that lies in a valley.

The major Moroccan cities were all built around such old walled cities, a cluster of buildings, shops and houses protected by massive thick earthen and clay walls, all of which are pierced by holes which, so our reliable guide Aziz claims, were used both to look out for approaching strangers as well as to speed up the drying process of the clay walls.

Still, the old medina of Fez is widely regarded as the most magnificent of these walled cities. It is one of the "largest living medieval cities in the world," marked for preservation by the Unesco as one of the world's greatest treasures.

And indeed what a treasure of a living city it is! Walking through its narrow passageways and cobbled streets, one's senses are assaulted by a bewildering array of sights, sounds, smells—the aroma of spices mingling with the tang of freshly picked oranges, bright woven scarves, jellabahs and caftans waving in the wind alongside raw cuts of beef and mutton, slabs of pink and lemon yellow nougats, studded with almonds and pistachios, alongside lamps and intricately carved candles.

It seems everything created by human hands and nature as well, save for crass appliances and cars, are sold here. One member of our group yelled in astonishment as he passed a small wooden shop: "Hey, they sell violins in there!" A university professor ducked into a store to buy a Berber drum for his 9-year-old grandson. I had set out on a mission to buy dates and walnuts for my husband, and came upon a shop selling such a wide variety of dates I had to taste each one of them, of course!

* * *

ONE never knew what would be coming from the nearest corner. Rounding the bend, one might suddenly confront a donkey dragging along a loaded cart, the only form of transportation allowed within the medina. While walking, one kept one's ears peeled for shouts of *"Atencion! Atencion!"* a signal to quickly stand off to the side unless one wished to be trampled on by a smelly donkey or a heavy wheelbarrow.

Turning into a corner, we were startled by a construction worker in a bright yellow raincoat, a pickaxe slung over his shoulder. We saw schoolchildren coming from or just going to school, old men in tattered jellabahs and filthy turbans, touts and amateur "guides" in leather jackets and jeans, and most incredibly, a young girl of about 6 with a pink backpack, strolling along with us as she sang to herself, smiling about secrets only she knew, then turning into a narrow alley and entering through a wooden doorway.

Some 200,000 people still call the medina of Fez home—"too many for a city that needs preserving," commented Aziz. And for them, it is a real neighborhood and not just an exotic showcase or relic of the past.

Aziz, who was born and grew up in the medina of Fez, though his family has since moved out to the new villages, brought us to a neighborhood baker, to whom families brought loaves of unbaked bread and picked up the warm, baked loaves after 30 minutes or so. In the few minutes that we stood in the doorway, about six people arrived with wooden trays bearing pale dough shaped into the customary round loaves and covered with towels. Some bore markings to tell the baker to whom they belonged. "No problem," said Aziz, "even if a loaf comes without markings, the baker knows to whom it belongs."

* * *

THE NEIGHBORHOOD baker is a trusted person in the neighborhood, and one who knows, just by counting the number of loaves one brings, how many people there are in the family, and if one is expecting visitors. The baker is also the local center of information, and if one is looking for a resident, one goes to the baker for his or her address, not to the police station.

A visitor can never know, judging from the outside with its narrow alleys, high walls sometimes topped with reed coverings, and imposing wooden doors, what lies behind this secretive exterior.

After winding our way down through the cobbled alleys, we turned into a small courtyard guarded by a wrought iron gate and entered into a larger and truly beautiful inner courtyard with a silent fountain in the center, planted with fragrant roses and strewn with rose petals.

We were at the Palais Menebhi, the former residence of a prominent medina resident who had served as finance minister to two kings. The Menebhi family later sold the palace to a wealthy businessman who decided to convert it into a teahouse and restaurant (upon the urging of tourism officials) and open it to the public. The Palais Menebhi is decorated in typical Moroccan fashion, using the usual elements of tile mosaic, cedar and stucco "worked in place," that is carved on site in intricate and delicate filigree patterns.

In the dining room, seated on low-slung couches and low chairs, we rested our weary feet and feasted on Moroccan fare, the most outstanding of which, I must say, was a *tajine* of lamb and prunes. The meat was so tender, with the prunes lending a piquant note of sweetness, that I ate more than was properly my share. So full was I that I had no more room for the next dish, a more traditional *tajine* of chicken and vegetables on a bed of couscous.

Fortified, we set out once more for the alleys and backways, shops and factories, sights, sounds and aromas of the magnificent medina of Fez.

Dressing for the tropics

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

ETHEL Colquhoun is a name familiar to the strange birds who frequent places like the Lopez Memorial Museum, the National Library, the UP Main Library or the Rizal Library of the Ateneo. Her Book Two on their travels (London, 1902) is just one of many travel accounts on the Philippines available to researchers or plain interested readers.

Unlike other authors who narrate their trips "around the world," Colquhoun is different because she is a woman. Most travel books are written by men and it is fascinating to see the world from a different angle. She was also an amateur artist and captured what she saw in delightful pen and ink drawings and some watercolors reproduced in color. One wonders where the original notebooks or sketchbooks are today because those images made at the turn of the last century have now attained some historical or anthropological value.

Last weekend, a friend and I were browsing at the Samsonite shop in Glorietta, looking at a wide array of luggage and wondering how sturdy these had to be in order to take the beating of modern air travel (and of course, rough careless baggage handlers and thieves in foreign airports). In the days when people traveled by sea and train, they had trunks that came complete with drawers and hangers. They were like portable cabinets and definitely weighed more than the 20 kilos allowed for economy passengers. These wouldn't fit in the overhead bins of planes and would be declared "oversized" today.

Travel in the past seemed such an adventure, requiring real planning, unlike today when you can get a discounted tour package, fly and be assured of hotels and transfers.

Colquhoun traveled in Southern Philippines, visiting Sulu, Dapitan, Cagayan, Misamis and other places that wouldn't be in a tour package today. Come to think of it, foreign governments these days advise their citizens to avoid Mindanao altogether. Thus, it was a delight to read her impressions of the country at the time.

Surely, the Philippine climate has not changed much in a century, although my father claims it was cooler before the war. I attribute this to global warming and his imagination. Colquhoun and her husband wanted to know what to wear in the tropics and couldn't think of anything aside from a wide sun hat.

It seems they brought a number of trunks that eventually got lost, just as luggage gets waylaid today. This is what she recommended that women bring on a trip to the tropics:

"Take for evening wear...the thinnest black gown you can get with long sleeves...not very tight. The reason is that one's arms get mosquito-bitten and that long gloves are out of the question in the heat. It is better to have the dress black because if you are seasick and your Chinese servant or your husband packs for you, he will probably put the stuff you shine your patent shoes with on the top, and it will break and intimidate the whole trunk. Boot-blacking smells nasty but doesn't show much on black silk. Don't take fine muslins or coloured cottons, except for special occasions. Don't have collars to your frocks, and don't take Paris hats. All these things are a weariness to the flesh."

Reading the above made me grateful for modern conveniences like mosquito repellent (with moisturizer if you want) and, of course, Tupperware and Ziplock bags to contain spills in the luggage.

Like most men, Colquhoun's husband advised her to travel light and just buy clothes along the way. There was not much she wanted in many stops and was promised that Manila shopping would make up for all the disappointment. One did not really need formal clothes since the chances of being invited to a wedding or state dinner were quite slim. So, more on what to bring to the tropics:

"(1) A warm coat and skirt—serge for preference—rain proofed. (2) An unlined alpaca coat and a couple of skirts. (3) Quantities of white cambric and silk blouses, and plenty of linen skirts. (4) Some dark-coloured cambric and silk blouses to match coats and skirts. (5) Some loose wrappers of nun's-veiling. (6) A Panama straw hat, and a burnt straw shape, with one or two made-up 'trimmings.' (7) A couple of evening frocks, say, one coloured and one black, as described above. A high silk bodice to one of these (unlined) will do duty as an afternoon gown.

"With these as foundation, you can count on being neatly and comfortable attired under almost any circumstances—unless, of course, you are going to attend race-meetings or vice-regal garden parties."

These days, we have wash and wear, drip-dry clothes. We have the convenience of washing machines and Laundromats, but in those days one really needed laundry and pressing service.

Maybe Colquhoun was just concerned with what to wear socially, but the Spartan list above doesn't mention underwear and sports clothes. One wonders what excess things she took in her trunks that got lost. The above list in itself is a useless bit of trivial data, but when one uses it to compare and contrast what was fashionable and basic a century ago with our own times, it is an exercise in historical reflection and imagination. It aids us in trying to piece together what the Philippines was like at the time.

From what she wrote in her book, Colquhoun seems to have enjoyed her stay in the Philippines.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

The INQUIRER is a member of the
PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE
The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Offshoot of corruption

FIRST, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) was caught sleeping on its job.

Second, blaming the "illegal loggers" for floods and landslides is partly correct. But—Question No. 1—why were they not stopped? But then the illegal loggers are not the only ones guilty of denuding our mountains. The "legal loggers" did most of the cutting of trees. And they were supposed to replant a tree or even two trees for every tree they cut. Question No. 2: Why are our mountains now bare?

The answer to both questions is that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, which is mandated by law to protect our natural resources—forests being one of them—was busy coddling the illegal and legal loggers these past decades. The floods, landslides, mudflows and devastation that we again experienced last November are an offshoot of government corruption and public indifference.

The government must do something concrete to prevent more disasters from happening again and to save thousands of Filipinos from dying and being rendered homeless. But first, heads should roll at Pagasa and the DENR.

—CARMELO S. DOROTHEO,
4548 Clover Rd.,
Sun Valley Subd.,
Parañaque City

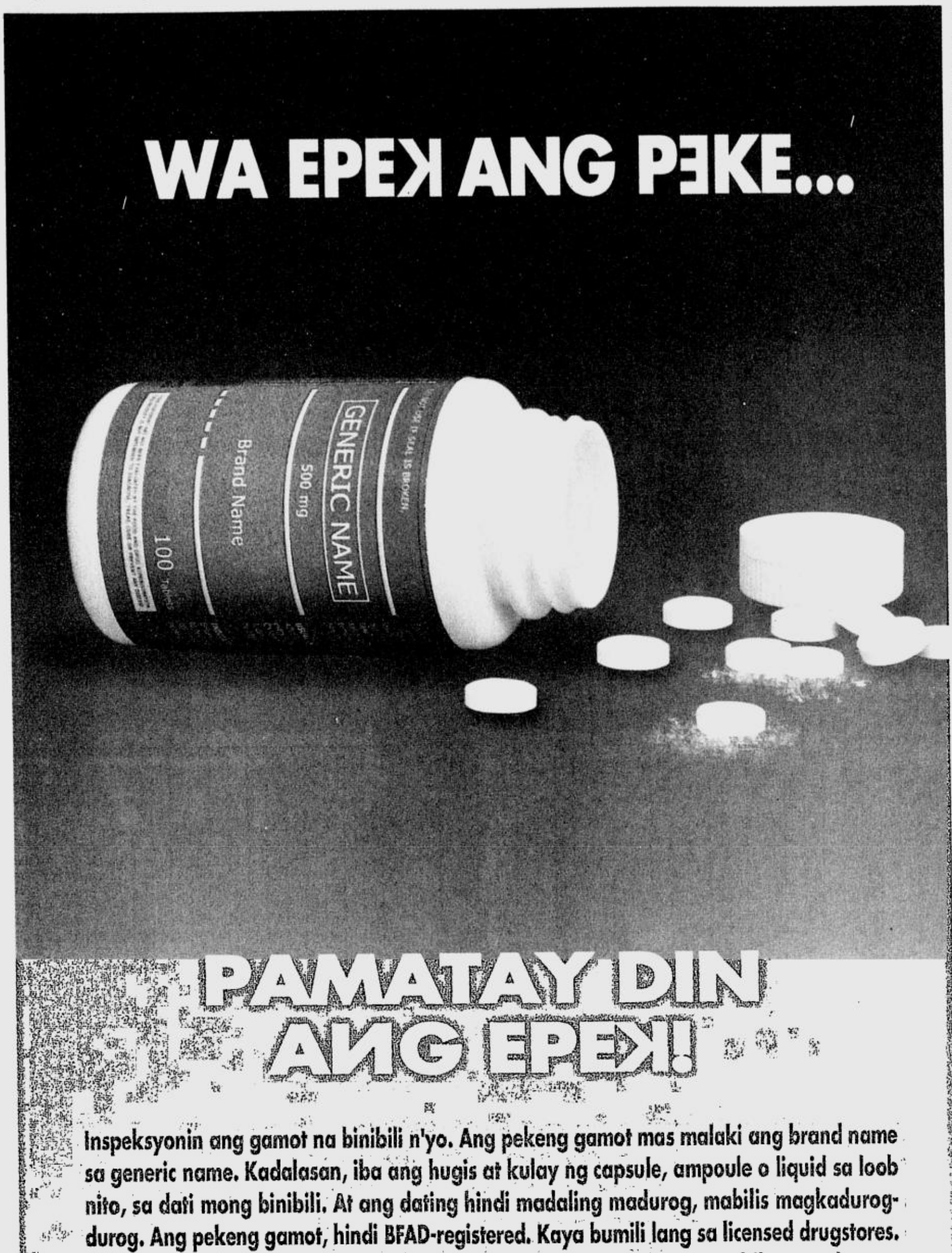
Missed issues in Apec summit

THIS year's Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit, which was held in Chile last Nov. 20, tackled a different agenda. Unlike in their previous meetings, when the participants sought global tariff reductions and ways to boost trade, the world leaders opted to discuss anti-terrorism plans. US President George W. Bush took advantage of the gathering to win international support for the war on Iraq that he initiated.

The Apec summit should have been used to discuss strictly economic issues. It could have discussed on how to respond to the oil price hikes, or how to compensate for the lost jobs of foreign remittance-dependent countries (ours included), or to come up with solutions to the waning tourism problems, all brought about ironically by the Iraq war.

Our country needs to improve its foreign policies because of the economic crisis we're facing. This country doesn't have the luxury of deviating from economic issues to back up President Bush's anti-terrorism campaign. After all, poverty has been the persistent, top terrorist in our country.

—MARIAN VISCO,
De La Salle University,
Taft Avenue, Manila,
meghenyo@yahoo.com



Why doesn't UP offer law graduate program?

SINCE its inception, the University of the Philippines has been looked upon as the benchmark of higher education in the Philippines. In particular, the UP College of Law has been considered as the premier institution for the study of law and the primary resource for the legal development of our nation.

A review of the roster of alumni of the College of Law would point to the most prominent of legal luminaries, high officials in the government service and leaders in private enterprises. The academic heritage of the College of Law is a bedrock of leadership.

As mandated, the integrated UP Law Complex "shall be dedicated to teaching, research, training, information and legal extension service to ensure a just society. It shall always be responsive to the challenges of social change, and shall be relevant to the growing legal and other law-related needs of the Filipino people."

A graduate program in the UP College of Law leading to the Master of Laws degree was established some decades ago. Unfortunately, UP no longer offers the program at present.

On Aug. 11, 2004, the Philippine Judicial Academy and San Beda College formally agreed to enter into a consortium to promote masteral law studies. The agreement opened the path for the courses offered by the Philja toward the completion of the degree of Master of Laws to be conferred by San Beda College.

The Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila offers a master's degree in law (LL.M.). The University of Sto. Tomas has also been offering an LL.M. degree.

It is thus disappointing to note that the UP College of Law does not have at present a graduate program leading to the LL.M. degree.

As the premier institution for the study of law in the Philippines and the primary resource for the legal development of our nation, the UP College of Law and the UP Law Complex can and should properly be at the forefront of the academic development of the legal profession.

It is imperative that the UP College of Law establish a Master of Laws program as soon as possible.

—LEONARD DE VERA,
executive vice president, UP Law alumnus,
vice chair, Board of Governors,
Integrated Bar of the Philippines,
15 J. Vargas Ave.,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City

Aglipay's clarification on slain journalists

WE wish to clarify some points in the news item titled "Int'l journalist group assails gov't inability to stop murders." (PDI, 12/04/04)

Police Director General Edgar B. Aglipay said the Philippine National Police has no intention of putting the blame for the killing of journalists on the slain journalists themselves, or that it is putting forward ad hoc solutions to the problem. He said the various proposals to stop the rash of killings of journalists—from the implementation of the national identification system to arming media people facing death threats—were made "in good faith."

Aglipay has assured that police investigators are on their toes and making significant progress in solving the killings of journalists. Of the eight "media" killings since Aug. 23, the day he took over as PNP chief, five have already been solved with the appropriate charges filed in court against the suspects. The other killings that happened before that date are also the subject of continuing investigations by field units as a priority of his administration.

The five cases (of Herson Genolan, Gene Boyd Lumawag, Eldie Sablas, Jose Luis Villanueva, Christopher Misajon) are proof that the PNP has not been remiss in its job of going after the killers of journalists.

The PNP chief has urged the public and the media to provide information that could lead to the solution of the other cases. He also said that while the wheels of justice may be perceived by media groups as moving too slow, the fact is that the PNP is doing its job, investigating all cases and ensuring an air-tight case against the suspects who are already in custody.

The PNP chief said he welcomes any constructive dialogue with media groups, local or international, to find a workable solution to the problem, particularly, in the rural areas.

—LEOPOLDO N. BATAOIL,
police senior superintendent,
spokesperson,
Philippine National Police
Public Information Office
Camp Crame, Quezon City 1111

NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074)443-9255
Fax No. (074)443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU
23 Aurora St., Old Albay District
Legazpi City
Tel. No. (052) 820-8402
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

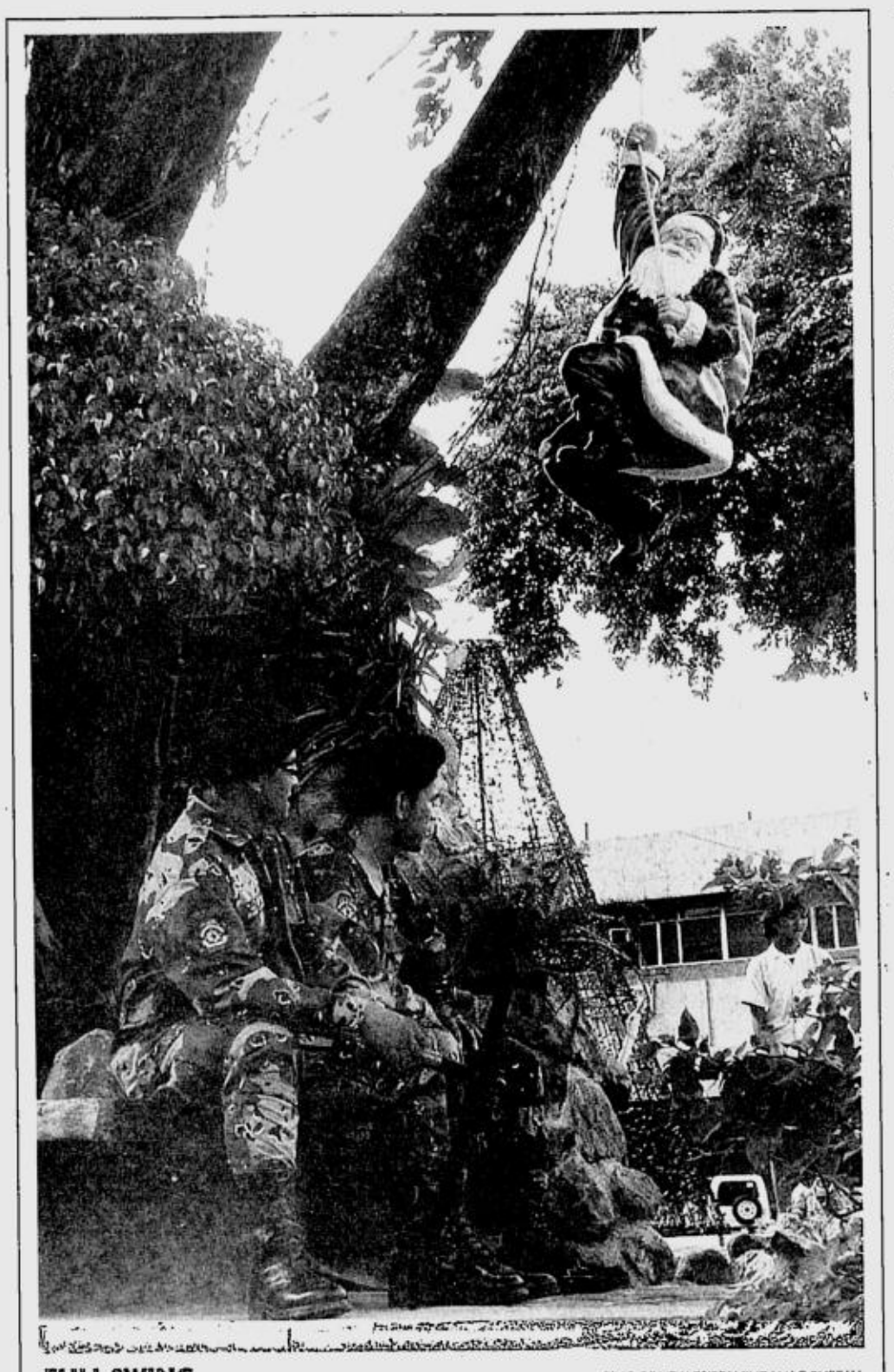
Across the NATION

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback: Inquirer atn name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) *Assistant Editor* **Tony Bergonia**

VISAYAS BUREAU
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: inq_cebu@inquirer.com.ph

MINDANAO BUREAU
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. No. (082)244-1770 to 71
Fax No. (082)244-1771
E-mail: inq_davao@inquirer.com.ph



FULL SWING BING GONZALES/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

A plastic Santa Claus figure swings from a tree as two policemen sit in a park in Davao City. Preparations for the holiday season are in full swing in many places.

Illegal logging area found in Quezon park

LUCENA CITY—As the evil and deadly effects of illegal logging were still visible all over northern Quezon, village officials in Barangay Malicboy in Pagbilao town discovered a new illegal logging area inside the Quezon National Park.

Lawyer Asis Perez, director of Tanggol Kalikasan-Southern Tagalog, an environmental legal defense center, said the village officials went to his office Monday morning and reported to him their discovery.

"I was told that at least 30 pieces of huge freshly cut hardwood tree species were discovered inside the national park," Perez told the INQUIRER. "More fallen trees have yet to be discovered because of heavy rains."

He said the barangay officials decided to report their finding to his office "because they suspected that park officials were involved in the illegal cutting."

Arms

Perez said they also suspected that "volunteer flagmen" manning the zigzag road even in the dead of night were also involved as lookouts.

Efforts to stop illegal logging led to proposals to arm forest rangers, which an environment official opposed.

The head of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Real town objected to the government's plan of providing firearms to the country's corps of forest rangers.

"Giving arms to the forest rangers supposedly to protect them against illegal loggers is not enough guarantee for their safety. On the contrary, their guns would only pose greater danger as these would only invite attention from other armed groups in the mountain," Cenro Federico Ocampo, DENR Real town chief, told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

"I'm not in favor of arming my forest rangers. That would be risky on their part," he said.

On Wednesday last week, Environment Secretary Michael Defensor announced the arming of forest rangers, in line with President Macapagal-Arroyo's order for a renewed crackdown against illegal loggers in the country.

Ocampo said the illegal loggers are big-time syndicates and composed of fully armed men.

"These illegal loggers possess sophisticated weapons and modern communication technology," he said.

"Government troopers are not with us all the time, especially when my forest rangers enter the inner part of the forest," he said.

"But we are more secured if there is no armed security with us during our patrol even if we are unarmed," he added. "What we use is only a little diplomacy and tact so that we can penetrate the deepest part of the forest," he added.

Security

However, he said the firearms will be of great help to the forest rangers manning the checkpoints along the highways.

Communist spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal said the New People's Army was set to convene a "special people's court" to hear all criminal charges against environment officials and hold them responsible for the high death toll from the storms that recently hit the country.

Rosal said they would include in the charge sheet the past and present secretaries of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

"All these DENR secretaries, from the past to the present, are liable for the deaths of the victims because they were the ones who granted permits to these big-time logging concessionaires for them to rape the forest," Rosal said in a mobile phone interview.

Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Educational funds used for polls, says gov

CITY OF MALOLOS—Some Bulacan mayors used part of their town's revenues to fund their reelection campaign, causing the shortage of provincial government funds to pay for the salaries and bonuses of teachers hired by the province, Gov. Josefina de la Cruz.

During the flag-raising ceremony at the capitol on Monday, De la Cruz said she wanted the employees and officials of the provincial government to know the reason for the delay in the payment of salaries of the province's 266 contractual teachers.

She said some mayors and municipal treasurers connived to use and divert the province's share from municipal taxes. The share goes to the special education fund (SEF) of Bulacan that will pay for the teachers' salaries.

She said several towns failed to remit P58 million to the SEF.

"May mga pamahalaang bayan na pinangahasang ginamit ang perang ito noong nakaraang eleksyon (Some town governments dared to use these funds during the last election)," De la Cruz said.

She said these officials are liable for misusing public funds.

She said the mayors concerned should exhaust all legal means to remit what was due the SEF so that the provincial government could release the unpaid November and December salaries of the teachers.

"Sorry *na lang sa mga* mayors *na nagwaldas ng pera ng* school board *na tatamaan dito* (Sorry is all I can tell these mayors who misused the school boards' money)," De la Cruz said.

She warned the concerned mayors and town treasurers that she would identify them if they again failed to remit their obligations to the provincial government.

De la Cruz urged the provincial board to immediately pass a resolution penalizing the mayors and treasurers if they failed to remit the SEF shares.

She said the province would be forced to reduce the number of teachers it would hire contractual teachers next year.

Earlier, the governor said the provincial government could not release their Christmas bonuses because of the problem.

De la Cruz said even her promised increase of P2,000 in the Christmas bonuses of the more than 1,700 officials and employees at the provincial capitol was affected by the "financial anomaly."

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

DPWH to send heavy equipment to devastated areas in Quezon

LUCENA CITY—The Department of Public Works and Highways is all set to start the massive reconstruction of the road system in calamity-stricken areas of northern Quezon, perhaps the biggest road rehabilitation undertaking in recent memory.

Bonifacio Seguit, DPWH director for Southern Tagalog, led the DPWH officials in conferring with Armed Forces of the Philippines officials in the military's Southern Luzon Unified Command on how to bring the fleet of heavy equipment to northern Quezon, particularly in the devastated 20-kilometer portion of the road before reaching Real town.

"The reconstruction and clearing of the road along Real-Gen. Nakar-Infanta area, including the Infanta poblacion, is much easier than the job that awaits us in the destroyed road before Real town," Seguit said.

He said the problem facing the deployment of heavy equipment is how to bring them to the area.

Only the ships that will carry the fleet of heavy equipment to be used in the Real-Infanta-Gen. Nakar area could use the Real Port, the DPWH official said.

According to Seguit, the equipment that will be used in the rehabilitation of destroyed bridges and roads will have to be disembarked in the target area.

He said the pieces of heavy equipment to be dispatched in the area could not use Real Port as entry point because the roads leading to the target area are also destroyed.

Seguit met with Maj. Gen. Pedro Cabuay, Solcom chief, officials of the Office of the Civil Defense and officials of the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council led by Henry Buzar yesterday morning in Camp Nakar.

The group planned to use the old compound of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. in Barangay Capalong in Real.

It was learned that the PLDT facility in the area has a docking area, aside from two helipads.

Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Mayor's backers protest ballot boxes' transfer

CABANATUAN CITY—Supporters of Mayor Nestor Alvarez of the Science City of Muñoz gathered in front of the city hall on Tuesday to protest a Commission on Elections order transferring to Metro Manila the ballot boxes bearing the returns of the mayoral election last May 10.

The returns are subject of an election protest filed by losing candidate Domiciano Laurena Jr., who claimed that massive fraud and irregularities attended the election in that city. He asked the Comelec for a recount of votes.

Alvarez's supporters asked the Comelec to hold the hearings of the election protest and the recount of votes in Muñoz.

Despite the presence of protesters, all the 175 ballot boxes were, however, transported to Metro Manila on Tuesday morning without any untoward incident, said Senior Supt. Alex Paul Monteagudo, Nueva Ecija police director.

He said the police and Comelec officials persuaded the protesters' leaders to allow them to implement the Comelec order.

Alvarez, in a radio interview, said the election in his city was held without any irregularity.

He said he was the popular choice of the voters and this was the reason they elected him for his second term.

Alvarez won by more than 3,500 votes over Laurena.

The Comelec's second division in Manila will hear the case. *Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

2 Pangasinan mayors see need for family planning

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan—While the national government is still ambivalent about population control, two mayors in eastern Pangasinan have seen the need for family planning and asked the provincial population and health offices to conduct tubal ligation among women in their towns.

San Manuel Mayor Salvador Perez even gave a half sack of rice and a bag of groceries to women who underwent the permanent family planning method on Nov. 25.

Asuncion Tuvera, San Manuel health officer, said Perez promised to give the women goats in January as part of the livelihood program he had initiated for them.

Twenty-nine women, aged 22 to 27 and who have two to seven children each, underwent bilateral tubal ligation procedure conducted by the Voluntary Sterilization Itinerant Team (VSIT) at the San Manuel infirmary last month.

The VSIT was composed of doctors, nurses and staff of the provincial population office and the provincial health office.

Tuvera said Perez earlier asked the municipal health office to conduct an information campaign on family planning methods among residents of the resettlement area in Mangaan Village.

Families displaced by the construction of the San Roque multipurpose dam live in the area.

In Asingan town, Mayor Guillermo Piso also asked the VSIT to conduct tubal ligation in his area because many barangay chairs had been asking him for money every time a resident went through voluntary sterilization services.

Some 30 women underwent the procedure at the Asingan Medicare Hospital on Nov. 18. The youngest patient was 24 years old (with two children), while the oldest was 41 years old (with seven children).

The VSIT reached 125 other women who underwent the procedure at the Dasol Community Hospital (20 women), Bolinao Medicare Hospital (31), Eastern Pangasinan District Hospital (49) and the Mangatarem District Hospital (25).

But the team, which was supposed to provide voluntary sterilization services to men, has yet to serve a single male patient, a member of the team said. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

BMW Certified Pre-Owned

Sometimes brand is more important than new.

Only a BMW provides sheer driving pleasure. And only **BMW Certified** Pre-Owned cars guarantee the same reliability and driving pleasure as a new one because they pass through a strict selection process. Each **BMW Certified** Pre-Owned car listed:

- Is no more than 6 years old with a mileage of less than 120,000 kilometers
- Has been examined to have no history of any major accident
- Passed through a comprehensive 100-point checklist
- Is guaranteed to have only genuine BMW parts
- Has a full 12-month or 20,000 kilometer warranty

Enjoy discounts and rebates at premium establishments as a Prestige Club BMW member.

Prestige Cars BMW (Makati) 2324 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City
CPO Direct Line (02) 812 7950 **Trunkline** (02) 892 8127 to 29

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1927 Series of 2004

Prestige Cars BMW

The ultimate drive may be driven away.
Experience it at **Prestige Cars BMW.**

BMW Certified Pre-Owned:

BMW X3 3.0i Exec.
2004 Titanium Silver,
5,012km

30% down payment
0% interest
24 months

BMW 735Li 2004 Sterling Gray, 2,634km, P6,900,000	**BMW 323i** 2001 Titanium Silver, 27,580km, P1,450,000	**BMW 318i Exec.** 2004 Orient Blue, 8,700km, P2,100,000
BMW X5 3.0d Exec. 2004 Black Sapphire, 3,230km, P5,100,000	**BMW 318i MSport** 2004 Black Sapphire, 1,812km, P2,200,000	**BMW 318i Exec.** 2004 Orient Blue, 11,516km, P2,100,000
BMW 530d Exec. 2004 Titanium Silver, 2,005km, P4,280,000	**BMW 318i MSport** 2004 Titanium Silver, 2,500km, P2,200,000	**BMW 318i Ed.** 2004 Alpine White, 5,000km, P2,075,000
BMW 530d Exec. 2004 Black Sapphire, 1,120km, P4,650,000	**BMW 318i Exec.** 2004 Black Sapphire, 2,320km, P2,150,000	**BMW 316i** 2004 Titanium Silver, 9,222km, P1,480,000
BMW 325i Exec. 2004 Titanium Silver, 14,126km, P2,500,000	**BMW 318i Exec.** 2004 Steel Gray, 5,000km, P2,150,000	**BMW 316i** 2003 Titanium Silver, 18,000km, P1,450,000

Other cars available:

BMW 316i 1996 Cosmos Black, 38,991km, P650,000	**BMW 318i** 2002 Black Sapphire, 15,000km, P1,575,000	**BMW 320iA** 1997 Calypso Red, 64,000km, P725,000	**BMW 525iA** 1991 Calypso Red, 43,016km, P550,000
BMW 316i 1997 Cosmos Black, 64,000km, P650,000	**BMW 320iA** 1997 Arktis Silver, 67,000km, P720,000	**BMW 323iA** 2000 Titanium Silver, 46,130km P1,350,000	**BMW 320iA** 1998 Calypso Red, 89,216km, P750,000

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

TYPHOON victims of Dingalan, Aurora retrieve logs washed away by flashflood. REM ZAMORA

'Don't blame kaingin for Dingalan disaster'

By Tonette Orejas
Dingalan, Aurora

FORMER logging firm employee Felipe Serna has developed a deep sense of fear whenever it rains. For this 65-year-old migrant from Ilocos Sur, rains have become the portents of the worst disasters in his lifetime.

Since arriving in Dingalan, Aurora in 1958, Serna, now a farmer, said he had never seen deadly landslides until two weeks ago when Typhoon "Violeta" and Tropical Depression "Winnie" battered the mountain town.

The death toll from floods and landslides caused by the two cyclones has climbed to 142. Hundreds more people are still missing and feared dead.

On Monday, after two days of respite from the strong rains and howling winds, Serna was restless.

With members of the Pinagkaisang Samahan ng Magbubukid sa Dingalan, Serna, chair of the group, stood at the banks of the Davil-Davilan River. The rains made them restless again, they said.

"We're trying to assess the damage to our farms," he said when the INQUIRER joined them at the seedling nursery of the Integrated Rural Development Foundation of the Philippines (IRDFP).

By farms, he meant those on the steep slopes covered by an Integrated Social Forestry (ISF) project of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Barangay Davil-Davilan.

The area covers 127.41 hectares of land cultivated by 57 farmers under a 25-year stewardship contract with the DENR.

Serna recalled that the same area was part of the logging concession of Dingalan Forest Products Corp. He was employed there, starting in 1962, as an operator of "triple drum," an equipment used in hauling newly felled logs. He left the company in 1971 following a labor dispute that dragged for months.

This, Serna said, was the irony of their plight and what the successive disasters denied them.

Former loggers

"Some of us used to be loggers. Displaced from work, we turned to farming. When there were no more lands to till because every piece of land was controlled by the logging companies, we turned to the over-logged areas. Of course, that was with the consent of government. The lands are marginal but we've made them productive. What we have worked for years are gone," he said.

The slopes, he said, were planted with fruit trees and vegetables. He said they were into *kaingin* (slash-and-burn farming) to raise food and cash crops.

They also made charcoal, deriving the wood from branches of mature *ipil-ipil* trees.

He said it pained him to hear local officials blaming the *kaingero* for the landslides that occurred in the town.

"We found that unfair. Our landlessness pushed us to the slopes. Those lands were previously exploited by the logging firms. The way we farmed was not destructive because those are the only lands we've got," Serna said.

The landslides, he said, were the belated effects of the decades-old rape of the forests in this part of the Sierra Madre mountain ranges.

Looking back, Serna said, the landslides triggered by Typhoon "Kading" in 1978 warned of the disasters that occurred recently.

It was also because of landlessness and the little income from fishing that pushed Nicanor Calulut to cultivate land within the DENR's ISF in Barangay Paltic. The project was established only in 1995.

The ISFs in Davil-Davilan and Paltic are within the Dingalan watershed area, the only one of nine declared with that status throughout the town.

Calulut earns from coconuts, bananas, mangoes and sweet potatoes in his farm.

What he is sure about, he said, was that even if Paltic is an ISF area, logging persisted.

"It's happening at the Madilim River. I saw *tablon* (lumber) floating there many times," he said.

Bonifacio Borja, a Paltic council member, confirmed this, saying the pieces of lumber were sold to Inter-Pacific Forest Resources Corp., which operates a sawmill in the village.

"There were pieces of lumber in Paltic. These were given free to the people when the media arrived. That way, they could hide the evidence of logging. There are mobile sawmills in Paltic," Borja said.

But amid all these, Serna's group is anticipating a nightmare (*bangungot*). It comes with the proposal of the Dingalan council to cancel even the stewardship contract which, he said, was a rather hard stance to protect what remained of the forests and the lives at the foothills of Mt. Mingan.

This was proposed after President Macapagal-Arroyo vowed to stop logging and start a massive reforestation drive.

'Fight to the end'

"We'll fight that to the end," said Serna. He said the plan would further impoverish the farmers and open more areas in the mountains for agriculture than for forestry.

Logging has not only led to landlessness. In Barangay Umiray, it has bred agrarian disputes as well, said resident Juliet Nuñez.

In Sitio Iyapit, she said, the Certificates of Land Ownership Award given under the government's Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program were not assurances of tenure.

The Dumagats and descendants of settlers, like her grandfather Aniceto Astrera, continue to challenge the ownership claim of Green Circle Properties Corp. over some 30,000 ha in the highlands of Umiray.

"It has been a pattern of being ejected and then returning to fight again another round of ejection," Nuñez said.

A MAN stands outside his home in Gabaldon, Nueva Ecija surveying his surroundings or what is left of them following landslides and floods brought by successive typhoons. REM ZAMORA

Dumagats lament loss of forest, communities

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

DINGALAN, Aurora—Braving the rains and treading along the rough coast of the Pacific Ocean, Dumagat couple Betty and Domingo Soler reached the poblacion at past 1 p.m. on Monday after seven hours of walking to tell of the horror that happened in their village Singawan, south of here.

"The situation's sad there. We lost our forests. And our farms are gone, covered by mud, buried by trees. I can't stand seeing what happened to Singawan," Betty said haltingly, sobbing as she retold the events following Typhoons "Violeta" and "Winnie."

They survived by rushing to the coast, diving to the sea and floating for hours. The Solers held on to coconut trunks. "*Di ako nawalan ng tatag* (I didn't lose my resolve)," Domingo said of his efforts to save his family.

At the municipal hall where the Solers and their two children Gilbert, 5, and Emily, 7, sought refuge upon arriving at the poblacion, they asked for food. They had been without food for two days.

At least 32 people from the Torres, Ritual, Ramos, Soler, Zamora and Calyos families had died from the landslides, Betty said. Her daughter Alone, 3, was swept away by the debris that rolled down the village.

Her accounts, the first to reach Mayor Jaime Ylarde, raised the death toll from the floods in Dingalan to 142.

"We came down because there's no more food in the village. No relief has reached us," Betty said.

Ariel Salcedo, barangay captain of the coastal village of Dikapanikian, also rushed to the town proper on Monday to seek food aid from the municipal government.

"We don't want to rely on relief goods but we can't farm now. The farms are gone and so are the fruit trees," Salcedo, a Dumagat, told the INQUIRER.

Those in Barangay Matawe, like Marilyn Dayta, had also been leaving their village to get food assistance. "Relief goods are not reaching us," she said.

Panic again

After two days of sunshine, rains over Dingalan on Monday sent the residents into panic, said Ylarde. But he also took that to mean that the town's 22,000 residents were prepared for the eventuality of another bout with calamity.

The four evacuation centers—the elementary and high school buildings, the municipal hall and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources office—were brimming again with more than 6,000 people on Monday.

As the centers begin to be full again, the pressure of feeding the families, whether in centers or in their homes, are growing bigger.

"The relief goods are not enough for everybody," Ylarde said, adding that the Department of Social Welfare and Development alone distributed 77 sacks of rice daily in the centers.

Sad Christmas

Ronnie Ramirez, 23, an evacuee at the municipal hall, said he was not thinking of Christmas anymore.

"It's going to be a sad Christmas," he said, as he cooked a lunch of *lugaw* (rice porridge).

That's going to be so because nothing remained of his house, not even a trace. He built it on his income from fishing. The house was on a hill next to the sawmill of the Inter-Pacific Forest Resources Corp. in Barangay Paltic.

His only hope now, he said, was his wife Judith who works as a househelp in Cabanatuan City.

As the municipal government continued to recover bodies on the third week of the disaster, Ylarde said he was more worried about the safety and health of the living.

"My town stinks now," he said, adding that several bodies had been buried in mass graves.

The Naagas and Payupay families met this fate. "There was permission from their relatives," he said of the decision to bury the dead in mass graves.

Soler said the Dumagats, members of the Negrito tribe who considered the Sierra Madre mountain ranges their ancestral domain, cannot perform rituals for their dead tribesfolk for now. "We will return for sure to do that," she said.

As the resources of the municipal government thinned out, Ylarde said Dingalan now relies on outside help.

Pampanga Provincial Board Member Lilia Pineda is scheduled to distribute food aid on Tuesday. Cadets of the Philippine Military Academy in Baguio City were coming also on Tuesday to bring relief goods to remote, isolated areas like Umiray.

Gabaldon, a Nueva Ecija town near the border of Dingalan, was itself in shambles, also the victim of a series of landslides. At the church in Barangay Sawmill where thousands flocked to receive relief goods, the Diocese of Nueva Ecija put up a streamer that said: "*Babala ng Ating Inang Kalikasan, Dinggin* (Listen to the warning of Mother Nature.)."

Deal signed to study ₱150-M coal power plant

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—The DMCI Holdings Inc. (DMCI-HI) and the municipal government of Concepcion in Iloilo on Tuesday signed a memorandum of agreement to conduct studies on the construction of a P150-million coal-fired power plant in the municipality.

The four-page agreement, signed by Concepcion Mayor Raul Banias and DMCI-HI president Isidro Consunji, authorizes DMCI-HI to conduct feasibility studies, information campaigns and other measures necessary to secure government permits and clearances for the project.

The DMCI-HI and its subsidiary, the Semirara Mining Corp., are proposing to put up a 100-megawatt coal-fired plant in a 30-hectare area Barangay Nipa, a coastal village 5 km from the town proper. Concepcion is 111 km north of Iloilo City.

Government officials led by Senate President Franklin Drilon and Energy Secretary Vincent Perez are pushing the project to resolve the power supply deficit of Panay Island.

"We have been doing a lot of stop-gap measures for Panay but it has an unstable power supply for one large island," said Perez during a recent power summit here. He cited the island's dependence on temporary and imported sources of energy.

Drilon said Western Visayas could not take advantage of potential growth brought by the opening of the Iloilo international airport in 2006 if the power supply of Panay remains unstable.

The current peak power demand in Panay is already equal to the dependable capacity of 206 mw generated by seven power plants on the island, said Pio Benavidez, National Power Corp. (Napocor) senior vice president for operations.

He said the peak would increase to 248 mw by 2007, surpassing by 16 mw the expected dependable capacity of the plants during that year if the coal-fired plant is not constructed.

Benavidez said the putting up of an additional base load capacity in Panay is imperative due to the increasing power demand of Negros Island, which exports power to Panay.

Panay is at the tail end of the Visayas power grid, which gets the bulk of its supply from geothermal plants in Leyte.

The power demand in Panay is expected to increase by 7.8 percent annually, one of the fastest growth rates among regions, according to data of the Napocor and Department of Energy.

But an alliance of Concepcion residents and non-government organizations are opposing the project out of fear that it will cause pollution and environmental hazards.

Maruja Querubin, convenor of the Concepcion Alliance for Renewable Energy (Coal-Free), said many of their townmates are unaware of the hazards of coal-fired plants.

"They think it's just like charcoal which they find harmless," she said.

Running priest finds new cause in ecology

STA. CRUZ, Laguna—Running priest Fr. Robert Reyes is now fighting for a total log and mining ban and has asked politicians, including President Macapagal-Arroyo, not to sacrifice the environment to raise funds.

Reyes, who was in Laguna yesterday for a visit, said the solution to massive ecological destruction should not be "partial and compartmentalized."

"The solution to preserv(ing) our nature should be comprehensive and total," he said.

Reyes said Ms Arroyo's total log ban declaration was mere rhetoric and distracting, as she in fact approved of mining in the country.

"Total log ban and a mining ban are inseparable because you can't mine without destroying, cutting and clearing our trees and mines are found in the mountains," he said.

Reyes said what is needed in the country today is total moratorium on cutting of trees and mining activities.

"We cannot do one and avoid the other. Our environment today is like a patient with two sicknesses. It needs total medical attention. We cannot just cure one sickness and leave the other sickness unattended lest the whole person suffers," he said.

The activist priest appealed to politicians to stop depending on loans and aids from financial institutions like the World Bank.

"Let us not offer our mountains and environment as collateral because these can't be redeemed anymore. Once the environment is destroyed, it can no longer be reversed," Reyes said.

"Government should not be investing on short-term projects with short-term benefits but with fatal, long-term disastrous consequences," he said.

"If we destroy our environment now, the future generation will no longer have mountains to preserve, nature to enjoy and environment to relish."

Reyes said environmental destruction is no longer a legal issue but a moral one because "we have not obeyed God's mandate to take care of the earth."

"God wants us to protect and preserve it for all generations to make use of and enjoy," he added. *Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Negros increases funds for forest protection

By Carla Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—The Negros Occidental provincial government is raising its budget for reforestation and forest protection by 200 percent in a bid to increase its remaining forest cover.

Gov. Joseph Marañon on Monday said the move was in line with the call for government to take serious action to protect the remaining forests following recent floods and landslides brought on by two storms that hit Luzon that left 1,400 dead and missing.

Bacolod Bishop Vicente Navarra on Sunday appealed to government officials not to pay lip service with its pledge to act against forests destruction in the wake of the Luzon tragedy.

"Government must seriously address the problem of forest destruction and not wait until it is too late," he said.

The provincial government will increase the budget for forest protection and reforestation from P10 million this year to P30 million in 2005, Marañon said.

Part of the funds, he said, will be used to reforest the Negros Forest Reserve (NFR) in the cities of Victorias, Talisay and Silay and Murcia town located in central and northern Negros.

He said the forest cover has gone down over the years from 80,000 hectares to 16,000 hectares mainly due to illegal logging and poaching in the past.

Int'l antiwar activists urge coverage of efforts for peace

DAVAO CITY—Groups critical of the US war against terror are equally critical of how the media have been covering stories, saying much of what is happening in the world has been left unreported.

David Wildman of the US-based United Methodist Church, claimed that in the recently concluded US elections, a huge number of Black Americans were unable to vote because of fraud but this remained unreported in the media, just as the growing sentiment against the US war on Iraq was being left out in the news.

"The media can be an unwitting tool for empire," said Prof. Maake Masango of South Africa, a member of the executive committee of the World Council of Churches.

By empire, he said that he meant how the US is trying to assert dominance in political, economic and military affairs of world.

Masango said that the US antiterror war has taken the "discourse" of the battle of good against evil, "demonizing the Muslims and those who fight for peace."

That's why, he said, it is important for various faiths all over the world to cut through their language, to tell the world that the war against Iraq and Afghanistan are "not God's will and to stand in brotherhood with all faiths of the world."

"It's important for us to reject the media's incorrect portrayals of Muslims as 'terrorists,' and to tell stories of peace that will inspire the world," Masango told reporters during the concluding ceremony of the first People's Forum on Peace for Life held here.

Over 300 people from all various countries attended the summit, which started last week.

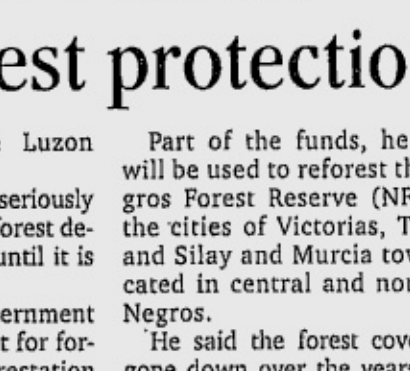
Masango said that the suffering of people in Mindanao is another face of the US war of aggression and that the international community needs to know what is happening here.

But he said this can only be done if things get reported in the media.

"We, in South Africa can learn only about what is happening in Mindanao through you, so, I hope, you will participate in this role. Please, don't fail your own people," Masango said addressing the media. *Germelina Lacorte, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

R&A IMMIGRATION SOLUTIONS BY REEVES & ASSOCIATES

24 Years Of Excellent Service To The Business & Immigrant Communities



ROBERT L. REEVES
Attorney & Board Certified Specialist
Immigration & Nationality Law (USA)

- R&A represents hundreds of Hospitals in California and throughout the U.S. that have immediate RN & PT openings
- Devoted exclusively to the practice of immigration & nationality law
- Successfully immigrated more than 16,000 Filipino families
- Telephone or Tele-video conference with an immigration expert
- Case Information System allowing clients on-line access to their files 24 hours a day
- R&A is the firm that other attorneys send their clients when their cases are too difficult or complicated
- R&A is one of the largest, oldest and most trusted immigration firms in the United States

Call (02) 759-6777

YOU DESERVE TO BE REPRESENTED BY THE VERY BEST

PASADENA • SAN FRANCISCO • BEIJING • MANILA

www.rreeves.com e-mail: rrphil@rreeves.com

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Filipino among 9 dead in Jeddah terror attack

FILIPINO CASUALTIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST (Since the start of the US-led invasion of Iraq in March 2003)

May 12, 2003—Three Filipinos died and 19 other people were injured in the bombing of an expatriate housing compound in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The three casualties were Serafin Igos Hernandez, Rogelio Pababero and Getulio Templo.

Aug. 19, 2003—Filipina caregiver Antonia Sardan Rafales was killed after a Palestinian suicide bomber blew himself up in a crowded bus in Shmuel Hanavi, Israel.

Aug. 19, 2003—Ranillo Buenaventura, 47, was on a humanitarian mission in Iraq when a cement truck packed with explosives hit the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad. He and 22 other UN workers were killed in the biggest attack yet on the world body. Marilyn Manuel and Maila Acosta were injured.

Nov. 9, 2003—Three Filipinas were injured in a suicide bombing in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

April 28, 2004—Rodrigo Reyes from the province of Rizal was driving a truck in a convoy that was ambushed on a highway in the town of Abdali, 600 km south of Baghdad and near the Kuwait border. Reyes and two Ukrainians died in the attack.

May 11, 2004—Filipino warehouseman Raymond Natividad was killed and four others were injured during a mortar attack on the US military Camp Anaconda in Iraq. The injured workers were identified as Ronald Dayao, Leopoldo Soliman, Emetrio Payna and Jaime Banaria.

June 14, 2004—A 46-year-old Filipino engineer, Raul Carlos Flores, was killed in a suicide car bombing in Iraq. Flores, an employee of GE, from San Fernando City, La Union, was among the five foreign workers and eight Iraqis killed when the convoy of GE contractors was attacked near busy Tahrir Square in Baghdad.

July 04, 2004—Iraqi militants attacked a convoy of 11 Filipino drivers and 30 others of various nationalities. The truck convoy came from Saudi Arabia and was to deliver crude oil to Iraq. Two Iraqi security personnel died, one was wounded, while Angelo de la Cruz of Pampanga was abducted.

Aug. 22, 2004—Telecommunications engineer Danilo Pasia and his foreign companions were ambushed in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul. Pasia sustained bullet wounds on his right arm and underwent surgery.

Nov. 1, 2004—Filipina caregiver Leonila Villarez (or Billariz, according to other reports) was hurt in stampede after a bomb exploded in a market at Tel Aviv, Israel.

Nov. 1, 2004—Filipino accountant Robert Tarongoy, an American, a Nepalese and two Iraqi guards were kidnapped after assailants stormed the compound of a Saudi company in Baghdad. The two Iraqis and the Nepalese were later released. Tarongoy is still held captive.

SOURCE: PDI NEWS REPORTS

From page A1

Another Filipino member of the consulate staff, supplies office supervisor Wenceslao Pescante, was among the 13 wounded. The 56-year-old from Makati City was hit by a stray bullet in the knee while entering the gate of the consulate during the attack, officials said. *(See related stories on A10 and A23.)*

"They told the security forces in front of us: 'We have hostages. If you approach, we will shoot'," Muaffa Jilan Ibrahim, a Yemeni maintenance worker who had superficial bullet wounds told Reuters, recalling the attack.

Human shields

"They put us in front of them as human shields. The security forces stormed in and there was an exchange of fire," Ibrahim added.

Witnesses said the militants had hauled down the US flag and burned it after bursting into the mission.

US President George W. Bush said the attack showed "terrorists are still on the move," trying to intimidate Americans and force the United States to withdraw from Saudi Arabia and Iraq.

"This is the evil of terrorism," Foreign Undersecretary Jose Brillantes said.

De la Rosa, one of more than 700,000 Filipinos working in Saudi Arabia, had been living in Jeddah with his wife Jeannie and a daughter, according to Consul General Pendosina N. Lomondot.

Pescante due for surgery

"The Philippine Consulate is already in touch with Mr. De la Rosa's bereaved family in Jeddah for whatever assistance they may require," Department of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Gilberto Asuque said in Manila.

Pescante suffered "nonlife threatening injuries" on his knee, elbow and pelvis and was brought to the Dr. Soliman Fakeeh Hospital across the consulate, Asuque said.

He was subjected to an X-ray exam and was to undergo an operation to extract the bullet embedded in his knee. Consular officials could not visit him because the area around the consulate, which covers the hospital, had been cordoned off.

De la Rosa and Pescante were among three Filipinos working at the consulate.

Lomondot advised the hundreds of Filipinos working at the Dr. Soliman Fakeeh Hospital "to restrict their movements" and stay within the hospital as much as possible.

Al-Qaida ally

"The squadron of the martyr Abu Annas al-Shami carried out the blessed Falluja attack by storming one of the bastions of the crusaders in the Arabian Peninsula and penetrated the American consulate in Jeddah," the al-Qaida Organization in the Arabian Peninsula said in a statement posted on a website often used by Islamists. Its authenticity could not be verified.

Islamic 'deviants'

The bloodshed in the Red Sea port city indicated that the fight against Saudi-born Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network in the kingdom was far from over despite a security crackdown in which several leading militants had been killed or captured.

The Saudi interior ministry said security forces killed three attackers and a fourth died from his wounds. They captured a wounded member of the "deviant" group—which is what the government calls al-Qaida.

It said the five dead consulate employees, besides De la Rosa, were a Yemeni, a Sudanese, a Pakistani and a Sri Lankan.

Adel al-Jubeir, foreign affairs adviser to Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Abdullah, told reporters the five attackers approached the gate in two vehicles and when the first vehicle was stopped at an outside checkpoint, they got out and fought their way into the compound firing guns and lobbing grenades.

Birthplace of 9-11 hijackers

He said the attackers called a general emergency line to say they had taken 17 hostages and that security forces should not attack the compound to rescue them. After coordinating with US Marines providing security to the consulate, Saudi forces stormed the compound and rescued some hostages, he added.

Saudi Arabia was the birthplace of most of the hijackers who carried out the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in the United States.

In the kingdom's last big attack, militants struck at oil companies and a housing compound in the eastern city of Khobar in May. At least 22 foreigners and seven security men died.

Saudi Arabia has been battling a wave of al-Qaida violence since May 2003. Around 170 people, including foreigners, security forces and militants have been killed.

US officials said the assault prompted an investigation into how the assailants were able to breach security to enter the compound.

"It's quite clear that those terrorists who attacked our consulate in Jeddah had observed our procedures for some time," US Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage said.

DOLE seeks policy review

ACTING Labor Secretary Manuel Imson told a Senate finance committee hearing on the 2005 budget that the spate of terrorism-related incidents involving Filipinos abroad would trigger a review by the government aimed at ensuring the safety of overseas workers.

Imson told reporters the policy review would not mean there would be a suspension or a ban on the deployment of Filipinos abroad.

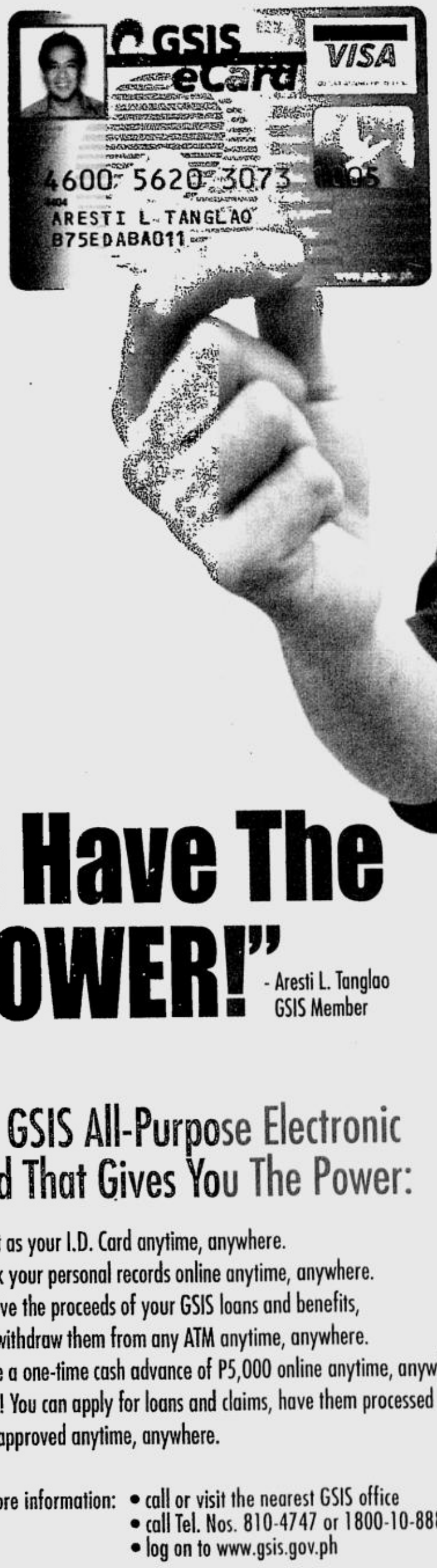
"What we're saying is there should be certain programs that should make our workers a little more aware of security measures," he said.

There is a need to reiterate and enhance existing security measures for them, according to the acting labor secretary.

Senate finance committee chair Manuel Villar stressed the need for government to review its foreign policy in the wake of violent incidents involving Filipinos abroad.

Villar said at the hearing that there seemed to be a trend of Filipinos getting hurt or killed abroad in the face of Philippine support for the US war against terrorism.

"We should review our foreign policy on Iraq and in the Middle East," he said.



"I Have The POWER!" - Aresti L. Tanglao GSIS Member

The GSIS All-Purpose Electronic Card That Gives You The Power:

- Use it as your I.D. Card anytime, anywhere.
- Check your personal records online anytime, anywhere.
- Receive the proceeds of your GSIS loans and benefits, and withdraw them from any ATM anytime, anywhere.
- Make a one-time cash advance of P5,000 online anytime, anywhere.
- Soon! You can apply for loans and claims, have them processed and approved anytime, anywhere.

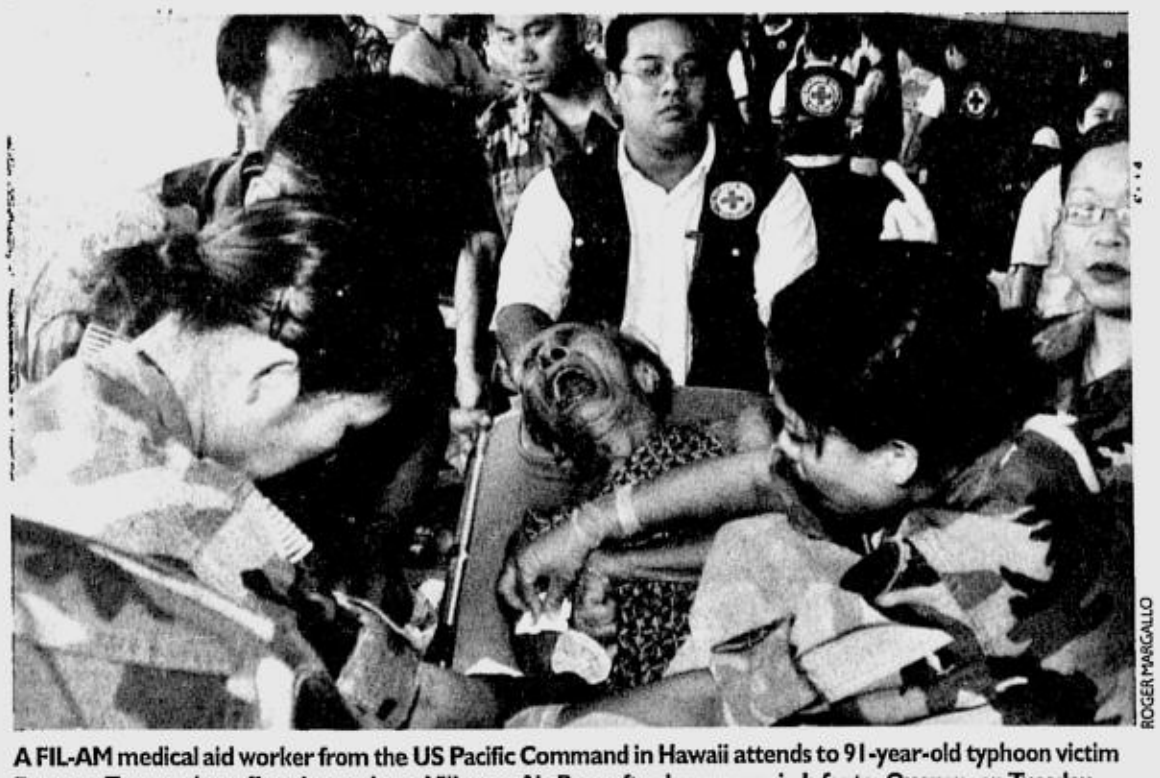
For more information:
- call or visit the nearest GSIS office
- call Tel. Nos. 810-4747 or 1800-10-8884747 (toll free)
- log on to www.gsis.gov.ph

GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM
GSIS - Kahit Saan, Kahit Kailan Maaasahan.

Powered by: UNIONBANK

An innovative service... Towards a Strong Republic!

MORE victims from Infanta, Quezon, rescued by the Philippine Air Force 505th search and rescue team arrive at Villamor Air Base on Tuesday. ROGER MARGALLO



A FIL-AM medical aid worker from the US Pacific Command in Hawaii attends to 91-year-old typhoon victim Romana Turgo, who suffered a stroke at Villamor Air Base after her rescue in Infanta, Quezon, on Tuesday. ROGER MARGALLO

DSWD clean out ...

From page A1

tated by storms that were believed to have killed more than 1,200 people, with hundreds more missing.

Eight of Espedero's relatives have been missing since Monday last week—the day the first storm struck—after the house they were in was carried away in a flood.

"I was attending the wake of a relative on Monday . . . The water rose very quickly and the house I was in was carried away with everyone still inside.

"That is the last I ever saw of my eight relatives. They found the coffin and the body of my relative still intact but the other relatives have not been found."

At a refugee center in Infanta, Espedero vowed never to return to the scene of so much misery.

"I never want to see that place again," she said.

Funds gone

Soliman told a Senate hearing that her department had already spent the entire P87 million allocated for relief operations this year.

Damage to public schools caused by four successive cyclones that battered Luzon has reached at least P300 million, Education Secretary Florencio Abad said yesterday.

Most severely damaged were schools in Camarines Sur, Quezon, Nueva Ecija, Aurora and Mindoro Oriental.

Abad said the figure would still go up since they were still waiting for more reports to come in from inaccessible areas in Aurora, Quezon and Nueva Ecija.

School desks, books gone

The education department also had yet to get reports from Catanduanes and the Cordillera provinces, where power has not been restored, he said.

"As of yesterday the damage has reached P300 million," Abad said in an interview from Cebu City where he was meeting all ranking officials of the department.

Abad said the typhoons destroyed not only school buildings and classrooms. In most cases, school desks and chairs, textbooks and other materials were washed away.

Aware of the scarcity of government funds, the Department of Education has asked that the logs that had washed down the mountains, particularly in Aurora, Quezon and Nueva Ecija, be used to rebuild and repair schools.

Makeshift rooms

Abad said the logs could also be used to make chairs and desks to replace the ones destroyed.

"We'll resort to makeshift classrooms in the meantime, so we would be needing those logs," he said.

The DepEd is preparing a list of damaged schools that it would submit to the National Disaster Coordinating Council.

Abad said his department would also ask the NDCC to find alternative evacuation sites other than the public schools.

DepEd officials said the resumption of classes in the affected areas might be postponed until early next year since relief and rehabilitation operations were still going on.

Abad said he had received no reports of any public school teacher being among the casualties.

GSIS

He said he would ask the Government Service Insurance System to extend calamity loans to public school teachers in the affected areas.

But Domingo Alidon, president of the DepEd National Employees Union, said some teachers had complained that the GSIS was deducting from their calamity loans the balances from their past salary loans.

Cancel DENR party

Environment Secretary Michael Defensor yesterday ordered the cancellation of the department's traditional Christmas party in deference to the grief of thousands of families in the typhoon-ravaged provinces.

Aside from urging employees to donate food, clothing, medicines and other basic necessities for the typhoon victims, Defensor said: "The least we can do is share their loss and bereavement by carrying out small sacrifices, like refraining from extravagant activities."

With relief and rehabilitation efforts in the disaster areas still going on, he said "it would be unseemly or even callous to be splurging precious money... on food amidst hunger." *With reports from Volt Contreras, AFP*

Solons serve up slice of pork

By Carlito Pablo

IT MAY be a thin slice of their fat pork-barrel allocations but who can refuse P50 million—especially in times of need?

That is the amount of the emergency rehabilitation fund which congressmen yesterday agreed to set up to help rebuild the 10 provinces hit by the recent succession of typhoons.

Each congressman agreed to donate P200,000 from his pork barrel for 2005.

The creation of the fund was announced by Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. after a multi-party caucus held at the House in which lawmakers agreed to yield part of their Priority Assistance Development Fund.

"This emergency fund will augment releases from the President's office," De Venecia said. "It reflects the desire of the House to help rebuild our worst-hit provinces and rebuild the lives of our people."

De Venecia said the fund would go to Nueva Ecija, Aurora, Quezon, Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino, Isabela, Bulacan, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur and Mindoro.

He said he had informed President Macapagal-Arroyo and Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin of the House's initiative.

"The rebuilding effort using congressional allocations will convince critics that the so-called pork barrel funds have been utilized for useful purposes," said Rep. Aurelio Umali (Lakas, Nueva Ecija), whose province was badly hit by the calamity.

"House members are not insensitive to the sufferings of our countrymen and the creation of the emergency fund reflects our determination to help them rebuild their lives," Umali added.

Also responding to the Philippines' need for assistance, Belgium has donated 30,000 euros (P2.2 million) to be used for the purchase of food, household kits, blankets and mosquito nets, the Belgian Embassy said. It said the funds were channeled through the Red Cross.

It's back to politics after the storm

By Luige A. del Puerto

DISASTERS unite even political enemies but only briefly. As soon as the sun rises, bickering begins anew.

Rodriguez, Rizal, Mayor Pedro Cuerpo yesterday said he wanted to know where and how Rizal Rep. Isidro Rodriguez Jr. distributed some 70 bags of rice supposedly for typhoon victims.

Rodriguez's office, in turn, maintained that the sacks of rice reached the people they were intended for.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development and the National Disaster Coordinating Council had provided the rice to the congressman.

Rodriguez and Cuerpo belong to contending political parties.

"We are looking for the rice because we never saw Congressman (Rodriguez) or his men distribute the goods to residents here," Cuerpo claimed.

'My constituents'

"I don't mind who distributed them. What I want to know is if they were indeed distributed, and how. After all, those were for my constituents," he said.

The mayor said the office of Rizal Gov. Casimiro Ynares had informed him that 150 sacks had been given to the Rizal lawmaker.

Rodriguez's chief of staff, Orlando Calilo, confirmed the receipt of the relief goods but clarified that the NDCC gave them only 50 sacks and the DSWD, 20, for a total of 70 sacks—not 150. The welfare department also provided canned goods.

Direct to the victims

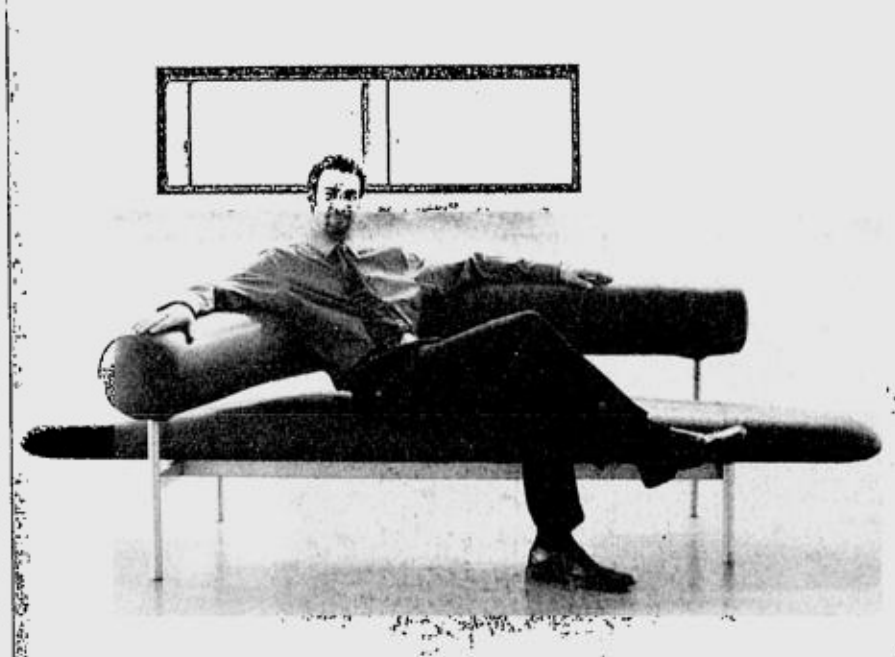
The relief goods were directly distributed to the affected residents of Rodriguez and San Mateo, Rizal, on Friday and Saturday last week, Calilo said.

He said the congressman's team did not distribute the goods in the Rodrguez town gymnasium, where hundreds of families had taken refuge at the height of the storms, because they did not want to "duplicate" the relief operations there.

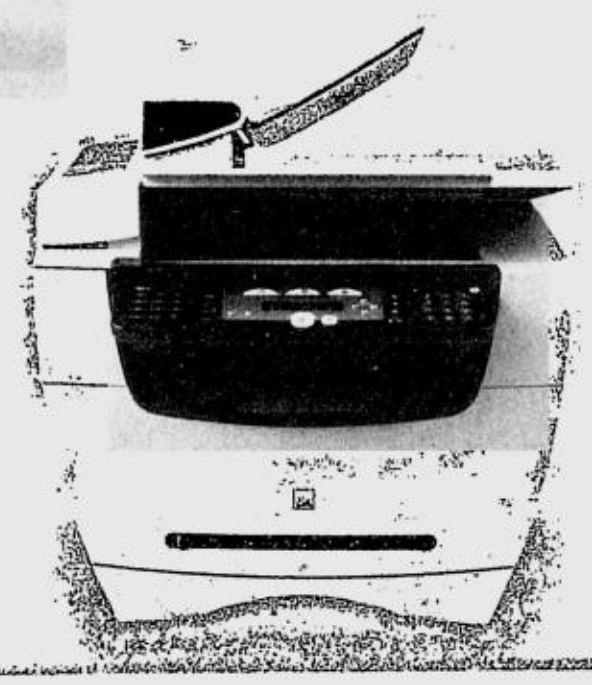
"We handed them to around 1,300 families directly in the disaster areas," he said.

"If the mayor (Cuerpo) had expected us to course through him the distribution of goods, that we did not do," Calilio said, adding that the congressman's office merely augmented the town's relief operations.

Canon



I have everything I want.



Let's talk business. How do you improve your business environment with greater productivity and efficiency?
The new Canon imageCLASS MF5630 and MF5650 all-in-one printer has it all. We are talking about high quality printing, outstanding scanning capability and the largest memory capacity in the market. Canon's new laser all-in-one also enhances your image quality with an advance scanning support software and makes copying/scanning a breeze with its Automatic Document Feeder feature. What's more, the Canon imageCLASS comes complete with FREE virtual document software: Newsoft® Presto! PageManager 6 and Scansoft® OmniPage SE. For lower volume users, choose from the more compact imageCLASS MF3110 series. Canon's new laser all-in-one printers are truly high performers – uncompromising on speed and delivery.

ImageCLASS MF3112

FASTER, MORE PRODUCTIVE
64MB MEMORY AND USB 2.0 HI-SPEED CONNECTIVITY
FOR FAST IMAGE PROCESSING

ImageCLASS MF5630
SCAN • 1200 x 2400 dpi resolution • Colour CCD Scan • Scan to PC/Email
COPY • Speed 18 cpm • 600 x 600 dpi resolution • 50 sheet Auto Document Feeder
PRINT • Speed 18 ppm • 1200 x 600 dpi resolution

ImageCLASS MF5650
SCAN • 1200 x 2400 dpi resolution • Colour CCD Scan • Scan to PC/Email
FAX • Super G3, 33.6Kbps • 3 second per page transmission • PC Fax (outgoing)
COPY • Speed 18 cpm • 600 x 600 dpi resolution • 50 sheet Auto Document Feeder • Collate & 2-on-1 feature
PRINT • Speed 18 ppm • 1200 x 600 dpi resolution

South & Southeast Asia Regional Headquarters:
Canon Singapore Pte Ltd 1 HarbourFront Avenue, #04-01, Keppel Bay Tower, Singapore 098632 www.canon-asia.com
Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc. Marvin Plaza, 2153 Don Chino Roces Avenue, cor. V.A. Rufino St., Makati City • Tels.: 812-6047 • Fax: 894-4174
E-mail address: info@canon.com.ph • www.canon.com.ph

DISTRIBUTOR Uplink information systems tels.: 687-7221/7222; 910-6467; 910-6460; 910-6463; 910-6462
Master Corporate Reseller Elite Machines Inc. (E. Rodriguez) Tels.: 416-8337; 410-8609; 415-6773 to 74 • Elite Machines Inc. (Araneta) Tels.: 411-0089; 711-0174; 732-8045;
Master Retailers Compex (Intl.), Inc. Tels.: 711-0288; 711-0283; 711-0614 • Silicon Valley Tels.: 371-6944; 371-5611 to 20 • EMCOR Davao Tel.: (082) 225-7712; (082) 222-1119 • EMCOR Cebu Tel.: (032) 253-1340
VAR-Dealers Complink Pasig Tel.: 687-1234 • Personal Computer Makati City Tels.: 819-5106; 892-2906 to 07 • Micro Pacific Technologies Makati City Tels.: 840-4563; 840-4728 • Tetra Technologies Makati City Tels.: 896-1538; 897-1304 • Microphase Enterprise Makati City
• Bence Trading Batangas, Bataan Tel.: (047) 237-21-51 • Angeles Photo Supply Angeles City, Pampanga Tel.: (045) 888-28-78 • Ace Corn System Tarlac City, Tarlac Tel.: (045) 982-19-35 VISAYAS Thinking Tools Inc. Tel.: (032) 254-2227 • Microtrade GCM Corp.
Tel.: (08822) 710-155 • Seatac Systems Computer Tel.: (036) 288-9003 • Diamon Trading Services Tel.: (032) 344-8122 • Muntuerto Dev't Corporation Tel.: (032) 233-7997 • Dataworld Tel.: (08822) 726-168 • Gilamacs Marketing Tel.: (032) 418-4000 • MDR Microware Sales
Tel.: (032) 253-9361 • Gloria Bazaar Tel.: (083) 521-0422 • R & J Computer Tel.: (038) 411-4110 • RRCC Computer and Office Supplies Tel.: (065) 212-4336 • NATCOM Computer Sales Tel.: (0911) 304-1688 • Ng Khai Development Corporation Tel.: (032) 346-2926
• UNISA Trading Inc. Tel.: (053) 523-8288 Mindanao Columbia Computer Tel.: (082) 221-1475 • CS TAY Tel.: (082) 226-3327 • Smartlink Computers Tels.: (082) 222-6771 to 73; (082) 225-5628 to 30 • MDR Tel.: (082) 255-3021 • Columbia Computer Gen. Santos
Tel.: (083) 552-2631 • PSC Gen. Merchandise Cotabato City Tel.: (064) 229-6859

Poll shames solons on pork

From page A1

ing the abolition of the pork barrel, claiming that it is a source of kickbacks for members of Congress.

De Dios said "79 percent of respondents believe that half or more of the budget of a project or program of a legislator goes to corruption."

But Rep. Douglas Cagas (NPC, Davao del Sur) had said the pork barrel was nothing to be ashamed of.

"Go to our provinces and the people themselves will say that it (pork) is something good," he said, after the House of Representatives decided last month to retain the full P70 million in pork barrel for each legislator.

Malacañang had cut by 40 percent to P40 million the pork barrel of each member of the House and to P120 million the pork barrel of each senator in the proposed national budget of P907.6 billion for next year.

The proposed cuts, which would have saved almost P10 billion, were part of the administration's effort to keep the budget deficit manageable to avert a full-blown fiscal crisis.

Response to fiscal woes

The respondents believed that President Macapagal-Arroyo had botched her job of convincing the public that her package of economic reforms was the answer to the fiscal and debt problems.

Pulse Asia said 63 percent of the respondents felt the President had no adequate government response to the fiscal and debt woes—35 percent said government did not have effective programs and 28 percent could not say one way or the other.

The polling group said only 37 percent of Filipinos agreed with the statement: "The government has effective programs to address the fiscal and debt crisis."

"These results suggest that if the government indeed has a plan of action for dealing with the crisis, then either this plan is still not generally known, or the people doubt its effectiveness or the government's will to implement it," De Dios said.

Cause for concern

He said another cause for concern of the government was the high number of skeptics in Metro Manila (48 percent) of those belonging to the middle-to upper-class groups (43 percent).

"These sections of the population are already among those who have better access to information or have the motivation to acquire it, yet they express an even lower rate of positive agreement that the government's programs are effective," he said.

But while Filipinos have serious doubts on the fiscal reform package, the Pulse Asia survey showed that they support three of the administration's major policy reforms—increasing taxes on cigarettes and alcohol products; abolishing the pork barrel of Congress, and granting a tax amnesty.

THE PEOPLE have spoken. Will there be order in the House and will the people's representatives finally listen? AP

Pulse Asia found that 82 percent of the respondents "overwhelmingly" supported an increase in sin taxes with 50 percent favoring a more uniform tax treatment of sin products, whether these be high- or low-priced cigarettes or alcohol.

"The pattern of the responses suggests that Filipinos generally tend to view the issue of smoking and drinking less as a private financial issue for themselves and more as a public health concern," said De Dios, one of the 11 professors at the University of the Philippines School of Economics, who warned in August of an economic collapse in two years' time unless the government reined in the budget deficit and debt.

Tax amnesty

On a tax amnesty, the survey showed only a slight majority, or 54 percent, favored forgiving tax evaders largely because it would minimize extortion by revenue agents.

Pulse Asia said the Cabinet was still in disarray ("They could not speak with unanimity on the gravity and consequences of the crisis, and had not yet committed itself to a coherent package of measures") and Congress waffled on the reform package ("It still had to pass a single measure directly in response to the crisis).

A parallel survey conducted by Pulse Asia during the same period showed the President getting a record low rating of 7 percent due to the public's dismay over her mishandling of rising prices.

Gov't's credibility

Pulse Asia noted further that the survey was made weeks before the President had declared the fiscal crisis was over.

"Whether and by how much the President's subsequent self reversal was likely to have further affected the credibility of the government's efforts to address the crisis cannot be known from this survey," De Dios said. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

High fuel, power rates push inflation rate to 7.6%

From page A1

shoot up this month because of the recent typhoons.

Pressures from Christmas spending will also likely contribute to a much higher inflation for December, according to analysts.

But for Trade Secretary Cesar Purisima, the prices of goods are "reasonable" following the calamities that struck the country.

"Based on our analysis, given that commodity prices have substantially increased abroad, we believe that the local price situation is reasonable," Purisima told reporters after attending a briefing on the Department of Trade and Industry's budget proposal for next year at the Senate.

Monetary tightening

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas hinted it would resort to monetary tightening in the near future to arrest the surge in consumer prices.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura acknowledged that the pressure to raise interest rates was escalating. "It's creeping in now. But if Dubai oil prices slow down to $30 per barrel, hopefully the pressures will abate," he said at a press briefing.

The inflation rate of 7.6 percent for November (using 1994 as the base year) was 0.5 percentage point higher than the 7.1 percent recorded the previous month, the NSO said. (Inflation for November was at 8.2 percent using the year 2000 as the base.)

Utilities up 12.5 percent

The NSO said the surge in inflation last month was largely due to the 12.5-percent increase in the cost of fuel, light and water, compared with the 10.4 percent in October.

"The 98-centavo increase in the generation charge of National Power Corp. that took effect in November pushed electricity prices to 13.4 percent. Fuel prices also rose as oil refiners and importers passed on the increase in Dubai oil price from $35.55 per barrel in September to $37.54 per barrel in October," Romulo Neri, director general of the National Economic and Development Authority, said in a statement.

The cost of services also jumped in November, rising 12.5 percent from the previous month's 12 percent. Inflation for miscellaneous items rose 2.7 percent from 2.5 percent.

Food

The NSO said the inflation for food, beverage and tobacco as a group stood at 7.1 percent, slightly lower than the 7.2 percent the previous month.

PURISIMA: The local price situation is reasonable. PDI PHOTO

For food, the inflation rate decelerated to 7.2 percent from the previous 7.5 percent.

Prices of corn went up 10.3 percent; eggs, 6.3 percent; fruits and vegetables, 5.7 percent; meat, 14.2 percent; rice, 3.5 percent; cereal preparations, 6.8 percent; dairy products, 9.7 percent, and miscellaneous food, 5.4 percent.

Imports

Scholastica Cororaton, head of Neda's policy and planning division, said the inflation rate for December was expected to reach at least 8 percent due to the effects of the typhoons.

She said the typhoons were expected to push up the prices of food products, particularly of vegetables.

Cororaton recommended that the government resort to the importation of agriculture products to ease the effects of the typhoons on prices of domestic food items.

Consumer prices still going up

She said consumer prices could still go up in the early part of next year because of another round of increases in electricity rates. Napocor, which recently increased its generation rate by 98 centavos per kilowatt-hour, is expected to be granted another rate increase early next year.

The continued rise in inflation prompted the government to say that its original target of 4 percent to 5 percent for the full year would no longer be achievable. The full-year inflation rate is expected to hit 5.5 to 5.7 percent.

Safe.

Some simple things that you do can actually be harmful to your health. Like eating a certain food. Lying on the bed. Even hugging a pet animal. That's because substances found in food and dust mites present in house linens can trigger an allergic reaction.

To get rid of the discomfort, get Zyrtec in the 10 mg tablet. Now available over-the-counter.

One dose a day is all you need. And you get quick relief from allergies without any unwanted side effects. Take Zyrtec. It's what the doctor ordered.

if symptoms persist, consult your doctor

Cetirizine
Zyrtec®

For quick and safe relief from allergy.

A quality product of UCB Pharma 9th Flr. Salcedo Towers 169 HV de la Costa St., Salcedo Village 1227 Makati City

Go online! Visit www.meralco.com.ph
Learn how much electricity your household appliances consume.

6/42 Luzon/Vis-Min
3 9 12 23 26 34

METRO

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

EZ2 27 6

SUERTRES 3 0 0

SIX DIGIT 7 5 3 8 7 0
(In exact order)

Text us your feedback: Inquirer met name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Editor Ester G. Dipasupil ■ Assistant Editor Cenon B. Bibe

Toll hike in major expressways by Jan. 1

By Clarissa S. Batino

MOTORISTS using the South Luzon Express (SLEX), Skyway and Coastal Road would have to shoulder hefty increases in toll rates effective Jan. 1.

The rates would go up by as much as P10, following the approval of the new fees last week by the Toll Regulatory Board (TRB) for the use of the three major expressways.

The TRB said the toll along the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX) would remain unchanged until the Lopez-led Manila North Tollways Corp. (MNTC) submits its petition for new rates shortly before it takes over operations from the Philippine National Construction Corp.

The MNTC had said that the rates along the NLEX could go up by about 380 percent once it takes over early next year, to allow the private group to recover its $371 million investment and to pay its creditors.

The toll would go up by P10 along the Skyway, an elevated and ground level highway, and P3 along Coastal Road. But the increases would double for vans and buses, and three times more for trucks.

Along the 30-kilometer SLEX, the toll per kilometer would go up by 4 centavos to 56 centavos per kilometer for cars and jeeps, P1.12 for vans and buses, and P1.68 for trucks.

The SLEX is classified as a closed highway where the rates are determined by every kilometer traveled.

On the other hand, the Skyway and Coastal Road are open highways that impose a flat toll rate for each class of vehicle.

Close to half a million motorists that use the SLEX, Skyway and Coastal Road would be affected by the increase. The TRB said it would issue a public notice of the new rates before Christmas.

"The TRB thinks the toll hikes are reasonable," said Transport Undersecretary Arturo Valdez. "Toll operators are allowed to increase the rates each year as provided for in their Supplemental Tollway Operation Agreement."

Christmas gifts for year-round fun in the water!

GTI Sea Scooter - Intro price P28,900 only!

SRP P37,900

- For snorkelling and diving
- Rated #1 by DIVE Magazine and DSAT
- Tested to 115ft. at 4 km/hr.
- 1.5 hrs. battery life (rechargeable)

Other more affordable gift ideas: Dolphin - SRP: P12,900
Standard DPV - SRP: P19,900

Special buddy deals for 2 or more units!

SEA-DOO Sea Scooters
Lightweight, User-friendly, Affordable

BOATING WORLD, INC.
9635 Kamagong St., San Antonio Village, Makati City Tel. nos.: 897-8771 • 890-4272

SEA-DOO authorized dealers
877 J.P Rizal, Makati Tel.:899-7388 • 300 D. Sampaloc Rd., S.J Tel.:744-3337 • 337 G. Puyat Ave., Makati Tel.: 899-9500 & (0917) 8241824 • Pasay Rd. Makati Tel. 812-2848 • Aniao, Batangas Tel.: (043) 986-0177 • Subic Tel.: (047) 252-6323 • Tagbilaran, Bohol Tel.: (038) 411-4029 & (0919) 824-3407 • Dumaguete Tel.: (035) 424-0578 • Puerto Galera Tel.: (043) 287-3068/69 • Zamboanga Tel.: (062) 991-4611

JEDDAH BOMBING AFTERMATH

Metro under guard

By Christian V. Esguerra, Leila B. Salaverria and Margaux C. Ortiz

THE POLICE are not taking any chances.

Aiming to prevent an attack similar to that on the United States consulate in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, the National Police has moved to fortify Metro Manila, particularly embassies. *(See related story on Page A1.)*

In a two-page letter of instruction, PNP chief Director General Edgar Aglipay activated "Task Force Manila Shield," a top-level defense setup aimed at keeping the metropolis safe from terrorist attacks.

Shield

Under the setup, police forces in neighboring provinces will act as a shield and aid the National Capital Region Police Office in case of attacks.

"The idea is to have a force to protect the back of the NCRPO while it's doing its job in Metro Manila," Aglipay told the INQUIRER yesterday.

The Manila Shield will be under the command of the NCRPO's chief of staff, a police colonel who will direct the actions of all provincial police districts on the peripheries of the National Capital Region.

The team includes the Special Action Force, an elite PNP unit which Aglipay also formerly headed.

Criminals, too

Part of Manila Shield's goal is to prevent criminal elements from slipping into Metro Manila.

Security was particularly tightened around the already fortress-like US Embassy on Roxas Boulevard in Manila.

"There have been no specific threats against the US embassy here in Manila, but the attack in Jeddah has made the terrorist threat very real," said Sr. Supt. Juanito de Guzman, Western Police District (WPD) deputy for administration.

Apart from the US Embassy, the WPD sent out additional special operatives, beat patrol members and plainclothes policemen to guard vital installations in Manila like the Malacañang and the Pandacan Oil Depot.

De Guzman said that undercover policemen had been deployed to the Manila Baywalk, a strip of Roxas Boulevard that has become a popular destination for promenaders.

Attention on Baywalk

He said the stretch of the Baywalk from the US Embassy to Padre Faura Street would be receiving utmost attention.

Also, people loitering near the US Embassy would be closely watched.

De Guzman said passing in front of or near the embassy would be all right, but stopping would surely draw the attention of security forces.

No pictures, please

He added that taking pictures of the embassy would be highly suspect.

Checkpoints have been set up on the approach of security sensitive areas like the US Embassy.

Strict security measures have also been set up in the Makati City area, where the police estimate hosted 90 percent of embassies and consulates in the country.

Chief Supt. Wilfredo Garcia, Southern Police District director, said 500 of the district's 3,000 policemen had been assigned to secure these foreign offices.

"So far, there haven't been any threats against the embassies," Garcia said. "But we are prepared."

The Prayer of The Lady of All Nations
Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Father send now Your Spirit over the earth. Let the Holy Spirit live in the hearts of all nations, that they may be preserved from degeneration, disaster and war. May the Lady of All Nations who once was Mary be our Advocate. Amen.

Excerpts from
"THE MESSAGES OF THE LADY OF ALL NATIONS"

Make sure that the prayer…is spread as quickly as possible… The people who accept this prayer must promise to say it everyday.

The world is degenerating. It is being afflicted with disaster upon disaster… Wars will continue until the Spirit of Truth comes with His help. Get the people back to the Cross… Do say this prayer in front of the Cross… It has been given for the salvation of the world.

It is the wish of the Father and the Son to send Me into the world in these times as the 'Co-Redemptrix, Mediatrix and Advocate'. This will constitute a new and last Marian dogma. This picture will go before it.

When the last dogma in Marian history has been proclaimed, the Lady of All Nations will give peace, true peace to the world. The Nations, however, must say My prayer in union with the Church.

From 1945 to 1959 the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared under the title "The Lady of All Nations" to a Dutch woman, Ida Peerdeman. On May 31, 2002 the Bishop of Haarlem/Amsterdam H.E. Most Reverend Josef Marianus Punt, DD declared these apparitions and the related messages, of supernatural origin, authentic.

For free prayer cards, please write to:
Confraternity of The Lady of All Nations, P.O. Box (8) 814 Dasmariñas Village, 1222 Makati City, Fax (02) 844-5572 or Confraternity of The Lady of All Nations, Philmusa, Room 005 Mingson Bldg., P. Zamora St., Cebu City, Tel. (032) 254-8542.

Makati cops to go on bike patrol

By Margaux C. Ortiz

POLICEMEN on bicycle patrol will soon be a familiar sight in Makati's Central Business District.

The National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) yesterday launched the Southern Police District's bike patrol program in an effort to increase police visibility in the country's premier financial district.

"This is in line with the NCRPO's integrated police visibility program," Razon told reporters.

"With the program, people will be assured that the police are always around to protect them," he added.

Razon said 10 policemen on mountain bikes would initially be deployed to the Central Business District.

Wearing shorts and T-shirts, the policemen would be doing the rounds during the daytime.

"They would patrol the financial district in teams so they would not be vulnerable to attack," Razon said, stressing that the policemen should carry their service firearms and communication radios at all times.

Apart from being "environment-friendly," the police force would also save on gas with the project, the NCRPO chief said.

"Our men would also get to exercise all the time, making them physically fit to do their jobs," he added.

Bike patrols would soon be launched in the Ayala-Alabang business and commercial area in Muntinlupa, Global City in Taguig, and Roxas Boulevard in Pasay City.

Ayala Bridge now open to motorists

By Tarra V. Quismundo

AFTER closing its eastbound lane to motorists, Ayala Bridge, one of Manila's main bridges, is now open to motorists traveling to and from Taft Avenue to the Malacañang and Legarda areas.

The Department of Public Works and Highways said yesterday that it had finished major repairs on one side of the 140-meter bridge, and opened the closed portion ahead of schedule.

"Our program was for 45 days, but we finished it in 26 days since it is a critical bridge and is used by VIPs," said project engineer Eduardo Santos of the DPWH National Capital Region Maintenance Division.

The pre-World War II bridge, which was last repaired in 1946, is a major link connecting the Ermita and San Miguel districts.

It is also used by vehicles bound for Malacañang and other government offices, including the Department of Budget Management, among others.

The project, which required extended work hours from DPWH personnel, was wrapped up just before Typhoon Yoyong hit the country last week, raising storm signal No. 3 over Metro Manila.

The P3 million project involved replacing steel bars and concrete holding the building to the ground, a portion of which was damaged by weather and barges passing through the Pasig River.

The project had been two years overdue because of lack of funds.

With the repairs, the bridge's eastbound portion would be good for at least 20 years as the DPWH would ensure its safeness with quarterly inspections every year, Santos added.

Repairs on the opposite side of the bridge, where steel bars had been corroded and the concrete already severely damaged through wear and tear, would begin early next year.

"We may schedule it after school closes to spare the public from the inconvenience and the traffic problems it could cause," Santos said.

Sexy star's husband in brawl

By Tina G. Santos

THE HUSBAND of the late sexy actress Halina Perez filed a complaint before the police in Quezon City after he was allegedly mauled by a nightclub customer yesterday morning.

In his complaint, Anthony Cuevas, 26, of Chico Street, Project 3, who is also a former varsity player of National University, accused a certain Allan Salvador of punching him and hitting him with a beer bottle.

Police said the incident occurred at about 3 a.m. in front of Decade's bar on Roces Avenue, Barangay Laging Handa, Quezon City.

Cuevas claimed that Salvador attacked him as he was on his way out of the bar.

Before the incident, Salvador reportedly tried to blame Cuevas for the scratch on the former's Ford Explorer, which was parked in front of the pub.

Trouble reportedly erupted when Cuevas denied the accusation of Salvador.

Why are we offering this authentic

Statue Of The Virgin In A Dome Immersed In The *Miraculous* Water Of Lourdes?

If you have one or more wishes you would like to come true quickly, read the following, before it's too late:

During my last trip to Europe, I was amazed to see how many people had these sumptuous statues of the Virgin. But what surprised me most was that this statue — made in Lourdes, France — is covered by a clear dome *FILLED WITH THE MIRACULOUS WATER OF LOURDES*.
The first question that came to mind was: "Just why do so many people have this statue of the Virgin immersed in the Miraculous Waters of Lourdes?"
I immediately went to Lourdes to find out. What I discovered there is amazing.

It is no surprise that for more than a century, two million pilgrims have been traveling annually to Lourdes to be close to these waters with their limitless powers. And some of these individuals even manage to bring back some of the Miraculous Water of Lourdes with them.

Water from Lourdes: Miraculous Water with limitless powers

The Virgin has appeared *18 times* in Lourdes. And so Lourdes is considered to be the prime location on earth for powerful beneficial forces — the place where the world's most numerous and astounding miracles occur. There is no scientific explanation for the beneficial forces concentrated in the waters flowing from the sacred source in the Cave of Miracles.

Wherever this Water goes, the beneficial powers of Lourdes follow

A vast number of people who possess even a few drops of this water constantly attest to the positive changes and fortunate events that occur in all aspects of their lives: money, love, success, luck, fulfillment and happiness.

It is perhaps even more incredible that these fortunate events occur for people of all races, creeds and origins!

Even for non-believers! And the kinds of miracles that occur are wide ranging and varied. Thousands of testimonials are incontestable proof of these miracles.

For example, there are those who needed money — and received it unexpectedly:

- Mr Michael Jalik got more than half a million dollars less than one month after receiving the Miraculous Water of Lourdes.
- Ms Jeanne Connell won $20,000.00 shortly after receiving the Miraculous Water of Lourdes. She gave some to her daughter, who immediately won $3,000.00.
- Only 6 hours after receiving the Miraculous Water of Lourdes, Mrs. Laura Huber, who had been experiencing financial difficulties, unexpectedly received $75,000.00.

And these are just 3 examples. Three examples among thousands upon thousands of others.

Five thousand scientists who were skeptical or who didn't believe in the supernatural powers of the Miraculous Waters of Lourdes went to Lourdes to study them. And while they could not explain all the miracles they observed, they had to admit these miracles did in fact occur. They even certified that the Water of Lourdes is genuinely miraculous

For the first time you can now receive this authentic statue of the Virgin covered in a dome filled with the Miraculous Water of Lourdes

If you cannot travel to Lourdes, France, and to these Miraculous Waters.... the Miraculous Waters of Lourdes can now come to you. And they can stay with you. Not just for a few days or a few weeks. But *FOREVER*. Don't forget that wherever this Water goes, the limitless powers of Lourdes go with it.

Each statue of the Virgin is made in Lourdes and hand-painted by talented craftsmen. Each statue is then covered with a phosphorescent mystic substance to make it glow in the dark. Then these craftsmen protect the statue in a clear protective dome filled with the Miraculous Water, taken directly from the original source in the Cave of Miracles.

Consequently, it is no surprise the value of this statue and the Miraculous Water in which it is immersed is inestimable. What's more, the source of Lourdes Water is small and the demand for its water is worldwide.

If you have any wishes you want to come true quickly, order your statue of the Virgin immersed in the Miraculous Water of Lourdes. A contribution of only P299 is requested per statue to cover its importation expense.

As president of the Lourdes Research Organization, I was able to bring some statues back with me on my return from Europe. To my knowledge, this is the first time — and perhaps the last—they are available. And quantities are very limited.

To receive one or more statues, just fill in and mail the coupon below to the indicated address. We ask a mere contribution of P299 per statue to contribute to their distribution costs (airfreight charges, insurance and customs handling).

Unfortunately, we probably will not be able to meet all requests. To benefit from this very special offer, please sign the document appearing on the coupon. By doing so you agree merely to send us a brief letter about the fortunate and unexpected events you experience thanks to the powers of the Miraculous Waters of Lourdes surrounding your statue.

President, Lourdes Research Organization

Note: Orders will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

Don't you think it would be a shame to fail to benefit from this special offer today, by responding too late?

To be sure to receive your statue of the Virgin immersed in the Miraculous Waters of Lourdes, fill in the coupon below right now and mail it today — *and no later than midnight on Friday of next week.*

Important notice: Take advantage of this special P299 offer - which we may never be able to make again — to order several statues and help us spread joy and happiness among your friends and family.

Each statue of the Virgin is accompanied by a certificate attesting:
- that it is made in Lourdes, France
- that the water in which it is immersed is the Miraculous Water taken from the Cave of Miracles of Lourdes.

Guarantee
If for any reason you no longer wish to keep your statue/s of the Virgin immersed in the Miraculous Waters of Lourdes at some point in the future, just return it. Your contribution will then be *immediately* returned to you IN FULL!

- Made by qualified craftsmen in Lourdes, France
- Glows in the dark!
- Accompanied by a certificate of authenticity stating that it is contained in a transparent dome filled with water taken from the source of the Miraculous Water of Lourdes

Special Coupon
Mail today to: Lourdes World Research
P.O. BOX 2062 CPO 1000, Manila

YES I want to receive ____ statue/s of the Virgin immersed in the Miraculous Water of Lourdes.
❑ I enclose a contribution of P299 per statue to cover postal, insurance, freight, and handling charges.
Please immediately send me:
❑ 1 statue – Only P299 ❑ 2 statues – Only P598
❑ 3 statues – Only P897
❑ Save P200. 5 statues – Only P1,295
❑ Save P350. 10 statues – Only P2,640
Delivery Payment Method:
❑ Express Delivery Service - Prepayment required. (send checks* or postal money order payable to Lourdes World Research) Your order will be delivered via courier service. If no courier service is available in your area, we will utilize postal service such as Express Mail Service (EMS) or via Registered Parcel.
* Provincial checks not accepted
❑ Courier Delivery - Available in selected Metro Manila areas only. Pay upon delivery of your order (Cash basis only)
❑ Postal C.O.D. - Please wait for your Registry Notice coming from your local post office. Upon receipt hereof claim the parcel upon full payment. **Expect 14 to 28 days delivery for provincial orders.**

Name (First name) (Middle initial) (Last name)

Complete Mailing Address

Tel No.

Zip Code ____ Birthday ____

Now! YOU CAN ORDER BY TEXT:
Text "PDI081204-SL, your full name, complete address, zip code, tel. no., date of birth" and send to
0927-9589988
In case we're not able to reply to your text messages, all your order will be processed immediately provided complete data has been sent
OR EMAIL AT: lourdesworldresearch@yahoo.com

I promise to send you my written testimonial briefly describing the fortunate and unexpected events I experience in my life due to the Miraculous Water of Lourdes when they occur to me.

Signature

Exclusively sold thru Mail order

PDI081204-SL

Globe Coca-Cola

LOADED CHRISTMAS

FREE!

8-can ref pack

Get Globe Connected now!

1 Buy an X-treme Memory SIM or a 128XL SIM.

2 Make your first text or call.

3 Reload at least P50 within 7 days from SIM activation.

4 Claim your Coca-Cola ref pack at:

7-Eleven · Coca-Cola · MallMore

PROMO DURATION: NOV. 3 TO JAN. 15, 2005

'tis the season to make great things possible Globe HANDYPHONE

'Coca-Cola' and the dynamic ribbon device are registered trademarks of The Coca-Cola Company. © 2004 The Coca-Cola Company.

See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5370, Series of 2004.

BASKETBALL:
NBA—Nets vs Cavs; 8 a.m. (r-9 p.m.); Solar Sports—New Jersey leaves the swamp to take on Cleveland at Gund Arena.
TENNIS: ATP Croatia Open; 12 noon; Sports Plus—Check out finals action from Croatia.
BADMINTON: China Super Grand Prix; 6 p.m.; Solar Sports—Badminton's finest shuttlers hold court in China.
Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2004

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SPORTS

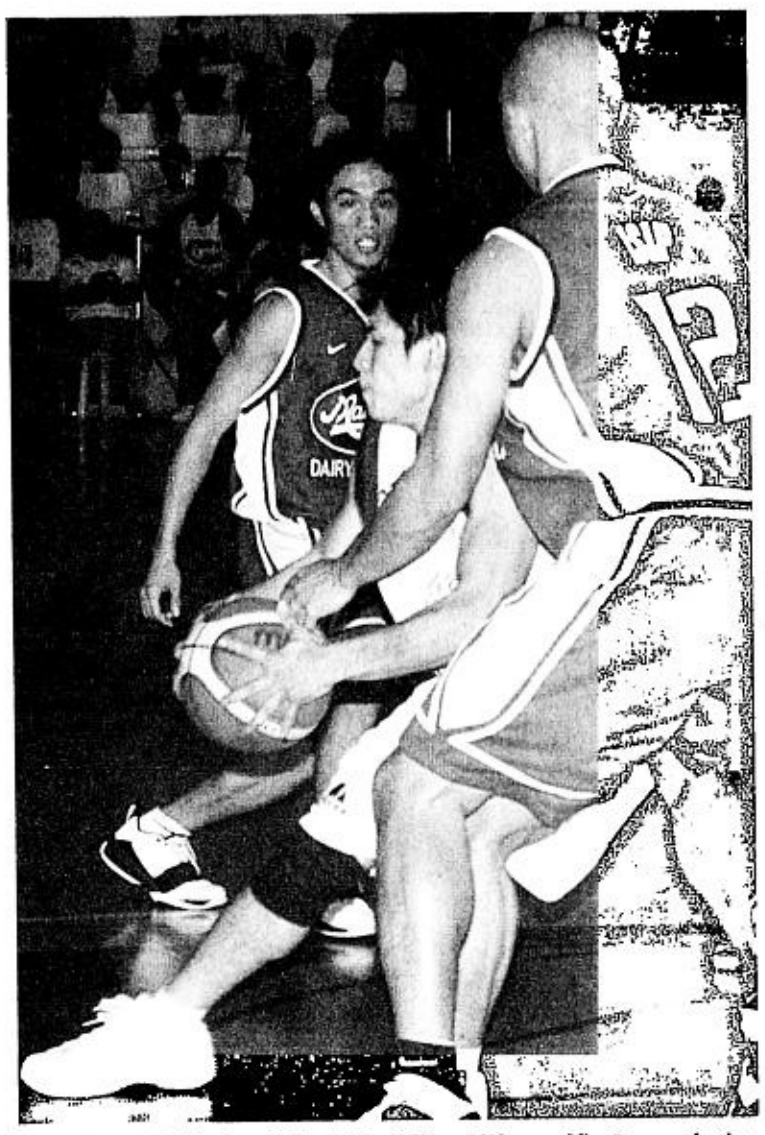
E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres

Text us your feedback: Inquirer sprt name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Don't miss your favorite TV shows!
Check out today's Inquirer TV Guide in the Entertainment section
Happy Viewing!

Magnolia cooks Granny Goose



THE MAGNOLIA duo of Mark Isip (12) and Warren Ybañez apply the squeeze on Granny Goose's Marvin Cruz. RUDY ESPERAS

"I look much better with more hair!"
- Jemuel

"I look younger with a full head of hair!"
- Gil

"I'm happier and I'm more active now!"
- Donn

BEFORE

BEFORE

BEFORE

We've Conquered Baldness!

Do you feel hopeless and helpless over your baldness problem? At **Svenson International,** you'll find effective solutions that will enable you to add more hair to your balding head. Our advanced hair recovery technology will re-create the natural thickness, texture and appearance of your hair. It's the intelligent choice for overcoming baldness.

With Svenson's help, you can conquer baldness and enjoy the confidence of having more hair. Call us today!

Svenson INTERNATIONAL
YOUR CHOICE NOT TO BE BALD

CALL 892-HAIR (4247)

MAKATI 15/F GT Tower | QUEZON CITY 4/F Cedar Exec. Bldg. | BINONDO 11/F Federal Tower Bldg. | ALABANG 4/F Citibank-Frabelle Bldg. | CEBU 7/F Keppel Centre • TEL: 234-0851

Welcoat deflects late Toyota run

By Jasmine W. Payo

MAGNOLIA-FEU rode on the big games of its veterans to repulse Granny Goose, 72-62, and claim the leadership of the PBL Open Championship yesterday at the Makati Coliseum.

Arwind Santos, who finished with 12 points and four blocks, triggered a fourth quarter run for the Wizards and then helped ward off a late rally by the Tortillos to pull his team to first place with a 7-3 record.

RJ Rizada topscored with 15 points while Warren Ybañez added 14 for Magnolia-FEU, which has now won five straight.

GAMES TOMORROW
(UST Gym)
2 p.m.—Montaña vs Granny Goose
4 p.m.—Air Philippines vs ICTSI-La Salle

"We executed very well especially on defense," said coach Koy Banal after the Wizards avenged its 68-64 first-round loss to the Tortillos. "We didn't know their key players like (Dennis) Concha, (Jet) Latonio and (Ardy) Larong. But this time, *napag-aralan na namin sila*. (We were able to study them)."

Granny Goose slipped to third at 6-3, half a game behind idle Montaña's second-running 6-2 slate.

Earlier, Welcoat Paints nearly threw away a double-digit lead before holding on for a 75-68 victory over Toyota Otis-Letran.

"In order for us to make it to the top four, we have to beat Toyota and Ateneo," said coach Caloy Garcia after Welcoat remained at fourth place with a 5-4 record.

Toyota Otis-Letran fell to fifth place at 4-6.

Dennis Miranda kept Magnolia-FEU afloat and a Santos triple later gave the defending champions a 59-49 margin early in the fourth.

The Tortillos gradually sliced the lead to 63-59, four minutes remaining. But Santos and Rizada cooled the rally down the stretch.

The scores:

First Game

WELCOAT 75—Tolomia 16, Tan 11, Washington 10, Sta. Maria 10, Ortiguerra 9, Reyes 7, Dy 7, Gamboa 5, Coching 0, Guevarra 0, Najorda 0.

TOYOTA OTIS-LETRAN 68—Andaya 12, Aban 11, Macapagal 11, Coronel 11, Daa 9, Dula 6, Abadia 2, Enrile 2, Alcaraz 2, Piñera 2, Bautista 0, Rodriguez 0, Aldave 0.

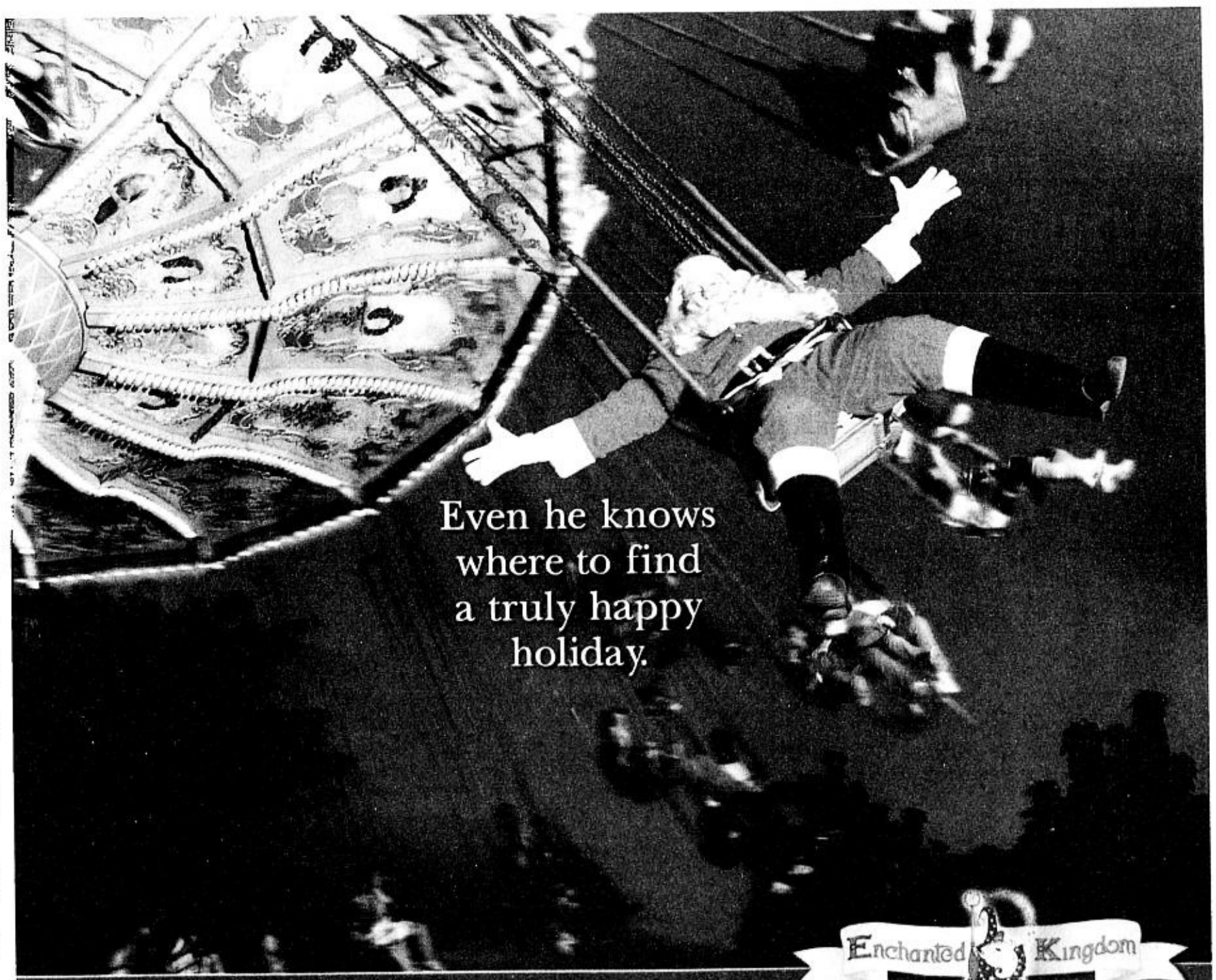
Quarters: 19-13, 39-39, 65-54, 75-68.

Second Game

MAGNOLIA-FEU 72—Rizada 15, Ybañez 14, Santos 12, Miranda 8, Jones 8, Isip 5, Chan 5, Raneses 2, Yabut 2, Co 1, Catli 0, Misolas 0, Razon 0.

GRANNY GOOSE 62—Cruz 10, Larong 8, Lanete 6, Cervants 6, Capati 5, Santos 5, Quiñahan 5, Dvid 5, Latonio 3, Grijaldo 3, Concha 2, Almeda 2, Ibañes 2.

Quarters: 14-13, 32-32, 48-44, 72-62.



Surely not your usual Christmas.

This season, be delighted with over 25 rides and attractions, plus spectacular fireworks display nightly from Dec. 11 to Jan. 2!

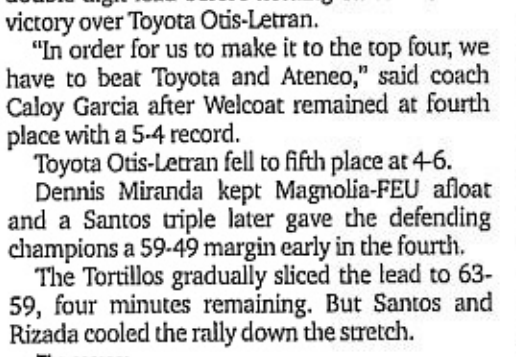
Park Schedule
Dec. 8 to 10, 10am-7pm
Dec. 11 to 17, 10am-10pm
Dec. 18 to Jan. 2, 10am-12mn
Jan. 3 to 7, 10am-7pm
Jan. 8 to 9, 10am-10pm

Shuttle Service Schedule
Dec. 8 to 10 & Jan. 3 to 7, 10:30am
Dec. 11 to Jan. 2 & Jan. 8 to 9, 10:30am & 12:30pm
Ayala Center Makati Bus Terminal, Park Square 2

Admission Tickets
EK Day Pass Php 500
Child/Senior Day Pass Php 320
Carousel Special Php 100

IAAPA

A proud member of International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions. For inquiries, please call 8302111 to 16 or 8436073 to 78 or visit www.enchantedkingdom.com.ph.



Come together at PETRON Treats

Everyone deserves a treat.

BOXING CLINIC

Roach feels honored

ROACH: I hope my humble efforts would help in the discovery of future champs.

FAMOUS American boxing trainer Freddie Roach yesterday said he was very thankful and honored for the chance to be of help to Philippine boxing.

Roach, trainer of the year for 2003, starts a two-day clinic at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium inside the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex this morning.

The clinic, offered free to the public, was organized by lawyer-sportsman Rudy Salud with the sponsorship of the Philippine Sportswriters Association and support from the Philippine Sports Commission.

Today's session, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon, will consist of a lecture and the question-answer portion.

Day 2 tomorrow will center on actual demonstrations of solutions to problems raised by clinic participants on the first day.

"I know there are many other future world champions waiting out there," Roach said.

"I hope my humble efforts would help in their discovery and development."

Sports nutritionist Sanirose Orbeta will also talk on the proper diet for boxers in today's session.

JESS YUSON

PACQUIAO (right) and Fahsan strike a pose during the press preview of their fight at the Wild Card Gym in Parañaque.

Fahsan belittles Pacquiao's form

By Recah Trinidad

AN AWFUL underdog, Fahsan 3K Battery yesterday saw something strange in Manny Pacquiao's body.

It flashed as a ray of hope that said the Filipino ring idol could be beaten.

Fahsan, 30, relied on keen native sense, handed down to him by his poor farmer folks from southern Thailand, to read into Pacquiao's physique.

Fahsan told the INQUIRER through his English-speaking manager that Pacquiao is not in peak form.

"We are hundred-percent sure he (Pacquiao) is not in the best condition," explained Jimmy Chachotochuang, Fahsan's manager.

Chachotochuang said this information was relayed to him by Fahsan after his fighter had intently observed Pacquiao limbering on the floor after working with the punch mitts at the Wild Card Gym in Parañaque.

Fahsan explained that he noticed the physical imperfection through the uneven trickling of sweat from Pacquiao's muscular body.

"He just swear something was wrong," Chachotochuang explained.

The Thai manager, however, was quick to concede that Pacquiao enjoys an enormous edge in speed and power.

But he said Pacquiao could indeed be unbeatable if he's coming in on Saturday in the same condition he had when he fought Juan Manuel Marquez last May.

"I think Pacquiao, at best, is only 80 percent," Fahsan's manager said.

And how prepared is Fahsan himself?

"A hundred and 10 percent," he quipped confidently.

He bragged, for example, that Fahsan had completed a total 90 rounds of sparring in two months.

Pacquiao totaled 76 rounds of sparring in less than two months.

The Thai camp added that they had followed Pacquiao's training through local reports on the Internet.

"At best, he had thorough training for only three weeks, and that's very insufficient," the Thai fight manager said.

Fahsan butted in and mumbled something in Thai.

Translated, Pacquiao's foe said it would be wrong for the RP boxing hero to underestimate him.

Freddie Roach, Pacquiao's trainer, however, insisted his fighter would be 100 percent come Saturday night.

VF CORPORATION and its SUBSIDIARIES
are the owners of the following trademarks:

THE NORTH FACE · JANSPORT · Lee · EASTPAK · Wrangler

VF Corporation takes all legal steps to protect its brands, licensees, distributors and authorized retailers from the sale of counterfeits and unauthorized products, which are prohibited by law.

IT IS CRITICAL FOR RETAILERS AND BUYERS TO VERIFY THAT ANY BRANDED MERCHANDISE THEY PURCHASE IS LEGITIMATE.

If you are caught importing, manufacturing, selling or distributing products which unlawfully carry the above trademarks, or any imitations thereof, or similar versions thereto, we will prosecute you to the fullest extent possible under the law.

VF ASIA LIMITED
(A VF Company)
www.vfc.com

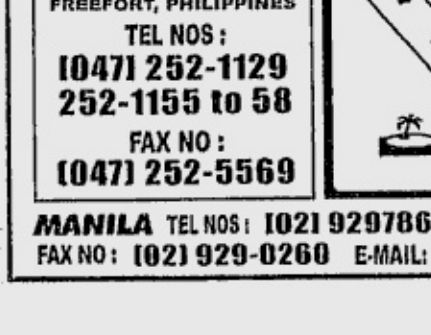
You can help prevent the sale of counterfeit products by reporting all instances to:
VF ASIA LIMITED at vfa_enquiry@vfc.com

QUISUMBING TORRES
Counsel for VF Corporation
12/F Net One Center, 26th St. cor 3rd Ave., Crescent Park West,
Bonifacio Global City, Taguig
Tel. No.: 819-4700 Fax Nos.: 816-0080 / 728-7777

United Auctioneers, Inc.
"NO MINIMUM PRICE"
PUBLIC AUCTION
DECEMBER 11 & 12, 2004
(SATURDAY & SUNDAY)
Sale starts at 8:30 AM SHARP!
Catch The Best at Subic Bay

ISUZU 12W ALUMINUM VAN
120 ALUM VANS

INSPECTION DATES:
DECEMBER 8, 9, & 10, 2004
(WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, & FRIDAY)
REGISTRATION DATES:
DECEMBER 8, to 12, 2004
(WEDNESDAY, TO SUNDAY)


100 CARGO TRUCKS
ISUZU 10W CARGO TRUCK

10 TRACTOR HEADS
ISUZU 6W TRACTOR HEAD

100 DUMP TRUCKS
ISUZU FORWARD DUMP TRUCK

ALSO AVAILABLE: LOCALLY ACQUIRED VEHICLE

FUSO CANTER MANLIFT TRUCK

TOYOTA PRADO

HONDA STEP WAGON

LOCATION MAP
SUBIC
BLDG. 1455 ARGONAUT HIGHWAY, SUBIC BAY FREEFORT, PHILIPPINES
TEL NOS : (047) 252-1129 252-1155 to 58
FAX NO : (047) 252-5569

MANILA TEL NOS : (02) 9297868 • 9205501 • 426-3908 • 453-7470 • CEL NO. 09178088824
FAX NO : (02) 929-0260 E-MAIL : info@uauctioneers.com WEBSITE : www.uauctioneers.com

Thai shift points to interesting mismatch

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

TELEVISION people, who invested heavily on Saturday's big fight in Taguig, know it could be over in a snap.

A mismatch would be hard to avoid.

Promoters, organizers, together with advertisers, are bound to lose money.

But is Manny Pacquiao to blame?

He could indeed come over-prepared for his obscure Thai foe with the ring name Fahsan 3K Battery.

The Thai, portrayed as a devourer of Pinoy boxers, may have trained twice as hard as Pacquiao.

But he gets a chance to turn Philippine boxing on its head only if Pacquiao, a billiards addict, had again spent many late nights in the pool parlor.

***

But that did not happen.

Pacquiao did go out to play pool, but he did so only once during the final phase of his rigid training.

This was bared by Freddie Roach, the famous trainer who molded Pacquiao into a world boxing sensation.

In that single night out, Roach said his fighter returned early and was in bed before 10 p.m.

Roach said the sensation from GenSan would be at his best on fight night.

This Roach claim, naturally, further fueled speculations that the "Yanig sa Taguig" mainer would be a mismatch.

In fact, there were those who advised that Pacquiao should've not been made to fight if he could not get a worthy opponent.

These same people also wondered why fans would be forced to watch a tasteless bout.

***

Funny, but among those called to task was lawyer-sportsman Rudy Salud, who has gotten out of his way to drum up support for the Pacquiao fight at The Fort in Taguig on Saturday.

For coming to the aid of the promoters, Salud had been criticized.

Salud had to again explain that, in the case of Pacquiao, a mismatch could not be avoided at this point in the fighter's career.

Why? With Pacquiao's superb condition, Salud said only three or four fighters in his class, like Marquez, Morales and Barrera, could provide an apt challenge to the Filipino ring celebrity.

All others would pale in comparison.

***

If there's anybody to blame, it's Pacquiao himself for being that good, Salud quipped.

Local fight fans are busy placing a bet in which **round** Fahsan would be knocked out

"Pacquiao has become such a super athlete that anyone outside of the elite featherweight circle would pale in comparison," Salud explained.

As things stand, Salud said Saturday's outing for Pacquiao was the best promoters could offer local fight fans under the situation.

At least, Pacquiao will have to stay at peak form, and this should help immeasurably in his scheduled rematch against Mexican double world featherweight champ Juan Manuel Marquez next February.

In the case of the Thai visitor, local fight fans are busy placing a bet in which round he would be knocked out.

Well, Fahsan will indeed come in as an awful underdog, but it's too early to count him out.

***

For the record, the Thai camp had been quoted earlier that Fahsan would run in the first four rounds.

Fahsan's handlers had said the Thai would not bang it up promptly with Pacquiao.

They said Fahsan would first wait for exhaustion to set in before their fighter starts to tear at his foe.

But this was bared before Fahsan, who was in Manila earlier, returned for yesterday's press preview at the Wild Card Gym in Parañaque.

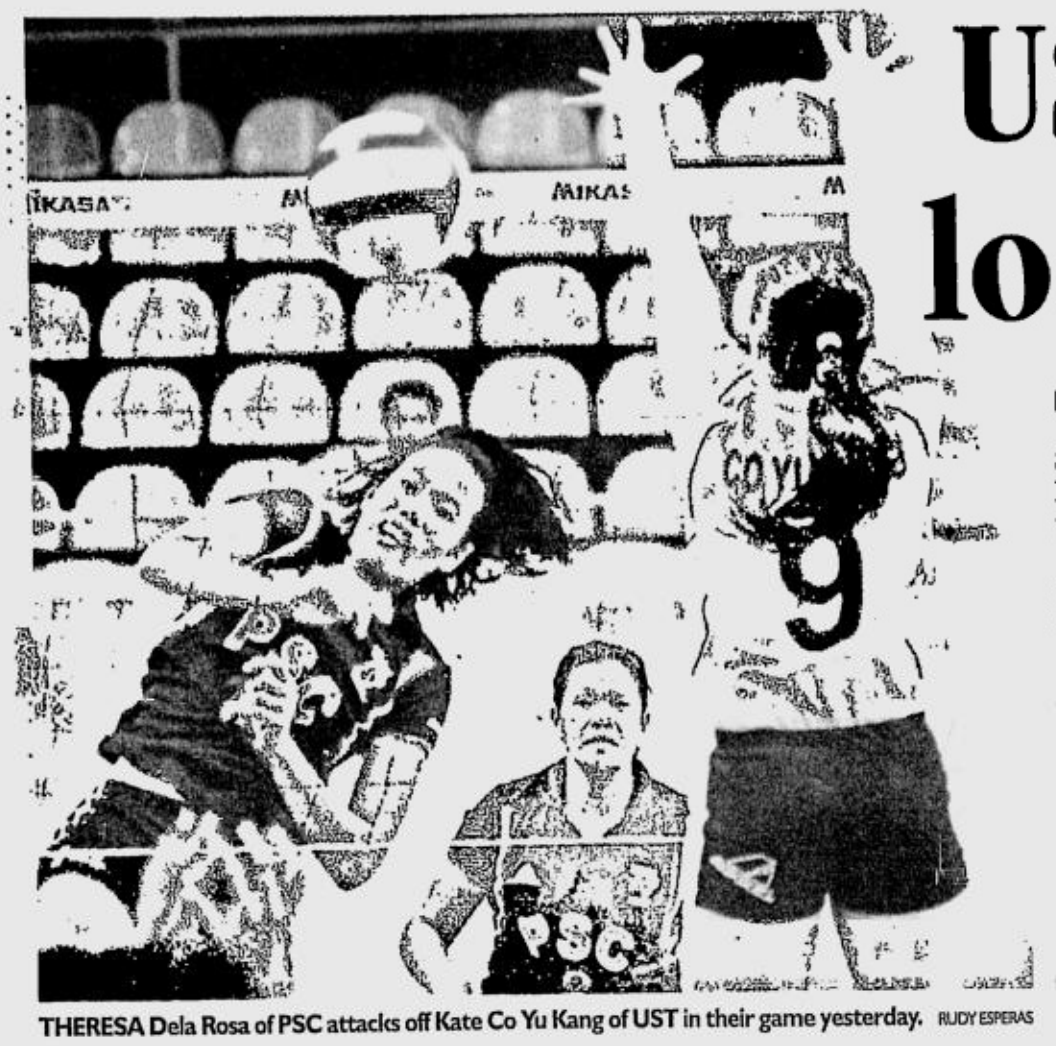
In a startling twist, the Thai camp told the INQUIRER they are shelving that initial plot.

Fahsan, after sensing something wrong with Pacquiao's conditioning, has decided to bang it up, meet his foe head on, right at the first bell.

This sudden shift alone points to a very interesting mismatch.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

UST tossers pin first loss on Lady Legends



THERESA Dela Rosa of PSC attacks off Kate Co Yu Kang of UST in their game yesterday. RUDY ESPERAS

By Musong R. Castillo

SANTO Tomas was pushed to the limit before dealing the PSC Lady Legends their first loss yesterday in the Shakey's V-League eliminations at the Rizal Coliseum.

Roxanne Pimentel stood at the vanguard of the Tigresses' assault as UST pulled off a five-set escape, 18-25, 25-16, 17-25, 25-14, 15-9.

The 5-foot-10 Pimentel found ways to crack the defense obviously focused on her and still got away with 24 points as the Tigresses won the marathon two-hour match for a 3-0 card and the solo lead.

The defending champions came back from a first-set loss and scored the win by winning the last two with a flourish, holding the Lady Legends to only 23 markers.

"I told them [players] not to be intimidated," said UST coach August Sta. Maria. "We came out flat and it almost cost us. We played our game in the last two sets and that was the key to our win."

GAMES TOMORROW
(Rizal Memorial Coliseum)
3 p.m.—San Sebastian vs Letran
5 p.m.—Far Eastern vs Lyceum

In the second game, La Salle notched a first win, holding off San Sebastian, 21-25, 25-14, 25-21, 25-17.

The Lady Archers improved to 1-1, dropping San Sebastian to 0-2.

After losing only one set in taking their first three matches, the Lady Legends slid to second with a 3-1 card. The loss yesterday was a huge blow to the veterans.

Legends coach Tatz Suzara blamed poor reception for the tumble.

"We could not get our offense going in the final two sets because of poor reception," Suzara said.

"At least it was a good fight. We still learned from this loss."

Pimentel, a regular in the RP team and the squad's other reinforcement after setter Rubie de Leon, was simply too much, as 19 of her total came off outright winners despite seeing double-women blocks all game.

"We started the game believing that we can beat that team," Sta. Maria said.

Theresa de la Rosa led the Legends with 17 points, with Zenaida Chavez adding 16.

Rosemarie Prochina chipped in with 13 for PSC, which missed attacker Amy Guanco who sprained her right ankle.

Hotdogs seek No.2 spot vs Beermen

ALREADY defying preseason expectations, Purefoods will go out and try to pull off the most unexpected stunt: Nailing one of the choice seats in the Gran Matador PBA Philippine Cup at the PhilSports Arena.

The TJ Hotdogs face sister squad San Miguel Beer today, hoping to force a tight three-way battle for the No. 2 spot at the end of the elimination round. The top two teams after the double round-robin affair automatically advance to the semifinals of the tournament.

The TJ Hotdogs (7-6) will gun for that incentive using a win against the Beermen in their 4:20 p.m. encounter to boost their chances.

Talk 'N Text, despite losing back-to-back games, has managed to sustain its hold of the top spot with a 10-3 record. But Shell, another team on an unexpected run, has inched closer with its 10-5 slate. Barangay is running third at 9-4.

STANDINGS	W	L
Talk 'N Text	10	3
Shell	10	5
Barangay Ginebra	9	4
Purefoods	7	6
San Miguel Beer	6	7
Red Bull	5	7
FedEx	5	8
Alaska	5	9
Coca-Cola	6	9
Sta. Lucia Realty	4	9

GAMES TODAY
(PhilSports Arena)
4:30 p.m.—Purefoods vs San Miguel Beer
7:20 p.m.—Talk 'N Text vs Red Bull Barako

The Phone Pals fumbled against Sta. Lucia Realty and Coca-Cola and hope to arrest that slide against Red Bull Barako in the other game at 7:20 p.m.

Coach Yeng Guiao's Barako are on a two-game roll but they will miss Junthy Valenzuela and Vergel Meneses anew because of injuries.

Valenzuela had bone spurs removed on his left foot and will be out for two to four more weeks.

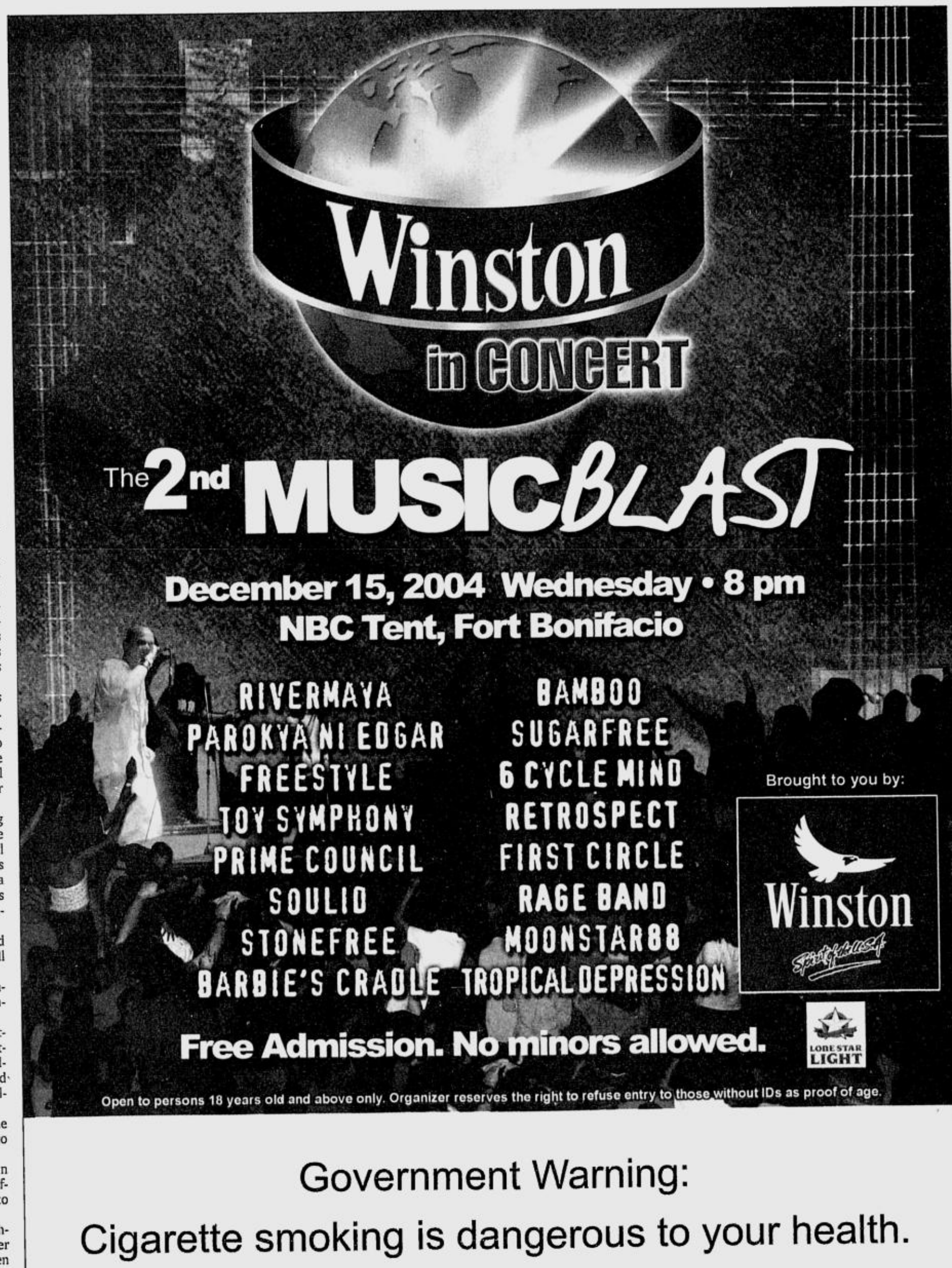
Meneses has back problems and still cannot join the Barako's practice sessions for another week.

Hounded by injuries in the past, the TJ Hotdogs of coach Ryan Gregorio are slowly getting back their bearings with Noy Castillo, Eddie Laure and Mike Hrabak now on the road to full recovery after suffering various ailments.

"Injuries had been our main problem in the past. We want to be as healthy as possible to keep us competitive," said Gregorio.

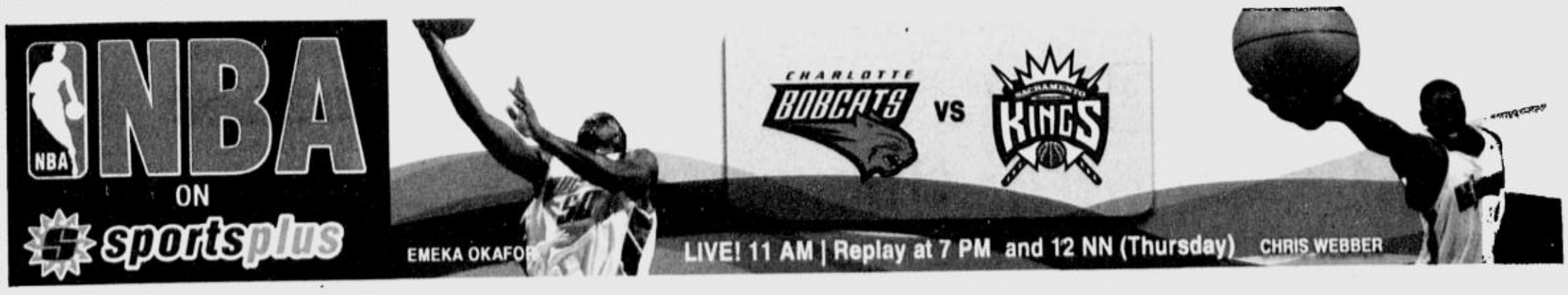
The TJ Hotdogs landed no better than eighth place in the succeeding conferences after capturing the 2002 Governors Cup due to injuries on some of their key players.

While the TJ Hotdogs are running smoothly, the Beermen had a bumpy ride so far after losing two straight games. The Beermen yielded against the Turbochargers and the FedEx Express, installing them at 6-7 in the middle of the standings. *June Navarro*



Government Warning:

Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.



Navy golfers set pace in Fil-Am Invitational

By Frank Cimatu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Rommel Gomez scored 36 points to lift Philippine Navy to the top of Flight B in the Fil Division of the 55th Fil-Am Invitational Golf Tournament here.

Navy posted a 105-point aggregate under the PAL Stableford scoring system to lead the Baguio City Government Team, led by Rep. Mauricio Domogan, by six points.

Good Samaritan was in joint third with Yokosan with 88 while Champirik Golf Team was fifth with 79.

Favorite Camp Aguinaldo inexplicably showed up with only three players and managed 78 in the "five to play four to score" format.

Eat Bulaga-Macabud, led by former senator Vicente Sotto III and brother-actor Vic Sotto, was a flop, scoring only 56 points to place 12th in the field of 13.

Okinawa Golf Club, one of the original entries, did not play.

The Sotto brothers played badly in Camp John Hay and did not register their scores.

In the Am Division of Flight C, Guam Kool Swingers turned in 90 points to build a 15-point lead over Fil Golfers of Hawaii, Crystal Dew Matikas and Dugong Bughaw which all turned in 75s. Eva Airways was fifth with 68, followed by Nueva Ecija Golf Club with 66.

SOTTO'S Eat Bulaga ends up a flop.

Club Marinduque led Flight C of the Fil Division with 104 points behind Gary Sales' 32 and Arnold Jumalon's 26. Fil Golfers of Hawaii was second with 96 points while the San Diego Pines Golf Club was a far third with 78.

Their rival team, Fil-Am at Diego, was fourth with 70, followed by Sundowners with 65 and Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines with 63.

Former Bataan Gov. Leonardo Roman scored 23 points but his other teammates at Capitol Hills Golf Club faltered with 59 to place seventh.

Jun Aqui scored 27 points to lead the front-running Syndicate in Flight C of the Am Division.

Syndicate's 82 points was 15 behind the 97 scored by Mario's Mulligans and Batch 92.

Baguio City Government II was fourth with 60, a point behind Davao Eagle Masters. The flight's favorite, Pines Golf Club of California, only managed 54 points with only three players scoring.

Meanwhile, Rudy Ordoñez of the DKA Los Angeles Golf Team scored his first hole-in-one in his seven-year participation in the Fil-Am.

Ordoñez's ace on Hole No. 1 of the Baguio Country Club course made the Cavite-born player eligible for a Lucerne watch worth P250,000.

TANGUILIG

ESPIRITU

REYNANTE

Tour Pilipina

Bikathon organizers label Trade

By Roy Luarca

THE TOUR Pilipinas yesterday banned the star-studded Casino Filipino Trade Team from vying in the two-day qualifying races and the 2005 Tour Pilipinas itself.

Organizers of the annual bikathon said the ban will level the playing field and allow the Tour to maintain its "domestic status."

Paquito Rivas, the 1989 Tour champion and now president of the bikathon's race management group, Philippine National Cycling Association, said the Tour intends to cater to riders who do not enjoy the same perks enjoyed by the "Trade Team professionals."

Tour Pilipinas Inc. chair Bert Lina, also the president of the national federation for cycling (Philcyling), backed Rivas' stand.

"It was a matter of making sure that the bigger flock benefits from our endeavor," said Lina. "The Trade Team riders are well taken care of by their managers and the Tour would only want to tend to those who do not get the same privilege."

The Trade Team riders, including Tour defending champion Rhyan Tanguilig, has contracts to race in international races as Trade Team III, a classification of professional teams in the Union Cycliste Internationale, the world governing body for cycling.

The other Trade Team members are Merculio

Alabang clinches chess crown

By Marlon Bernardino
Contributor

TAGAYTAY CITY—Alabang-Muntinlupa City topped the 2004 National Inter-Cities and Municipalities despite yielding to Tagaytay City A, 3-1, Monday night in Game Two of their title showdown at the Tagaytay Sports Center here.

The sixth-seeded Alabang team blanked top seed Tagaytay A, 4-0, in Game One Monday night, seizing the momentum in the championship duel of the tournament organized by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines.

"I'm proud of the boys, they really did their best," said team manager and Barangay Alabang chair Victor Ulanday. "After our 4-0 win in Game One, it was hard for Tagaytay to recover as it also needed to blank us in Game Two to force a playoff.

"It's good that Oliver (Dimakiling) and Basilio (Pandan) were able to draw their games and give us victory."

Fide Master Dimakiling and the untitled Pandan drew with International Master Richard Bitoon and Edmundo Gatus on boards 2 and 4, respectively, to key Alabang's victory worth P100,000.

Their draws compensated for the losses teammates Grandmaster Nelson Mariano II and Randy Segarra absorbed against GM Joey Antonio and 11-year-old Wesley So on boards 1 and 4, respectively.

Fifth seed Maynila B, composed of IM candidate Darwin Laylo, reigning Asian Zonal champion Ronald Dableo, Noel Dela Cruz and Carlo Magno Rosaupan, captured third place with a 3-1 triumph over third seed Dasmariñas (Cavite) in Game Two.

Dasmariñas, powered by IM Petronio Roca, NM Oliver Barbosa, Raymond Salcedo and Ivan Gil Biag, forced a 2-2 tie in Game One.

NCFP president Go Teng Kok thanked the Tagaytay City government, headed by Mayor Abraham Tolentino, for sponsoring the annual event which attracted 27 teams.

Tagaytay A received the runner-up prize of P60,000 plus trophy while Maynila B got P40,000 plus trophy for third place.

Rounding out the top 13 are Cantilan (Surigao Del Sur), Marikina City Mandaluyong City, Tanauan City (Batangas), Makati City, Manila (Philippine Navy), Maynila "A", Quezon City, and Muntinlupa City (Office of the Mayor).

Red Ribbon football fiesta returns today

THE RED Ribbon Football Fiesta tournament resumes today at the Ateneo pitch in Katipunan when Group B leaders Marist School and host Ateneo decide which of them advances into the semifinal round at 9 a.m. The winner is assured of a place in the semis in a format that allows the top team of each group and the second best of either Group A, B or C to advance. The qualifiers then enter a crossover semifinal round with the winners meeting on the Dec. 19 finals."

Group A games today feature unbeaten Xavier school against Mendiola FC at 2:30 p.m. at Xavier in San Juan while Southridge School, another undefeated squad in Group A, meets Magat Salamat at 9 a.m. in Alabang. Group C, which takes a bye today, has the Colegio San Agustin/Hed Center/Claret School selection ahead with no losses followed by Cheng Hua with one defeat. The Red Ribbon Football Fiesta is the official Under-14 tourney of the Philippine Football Federation.

Del Rosario

SINGAPORE—The Philippines' Liza del Rosario shot a six-game series of 1225 pinfalls Monday and ranked No. 18 after the first round of the women's competition in the 2004 AMF Bowling World Cup at the SuperBowl Safra Mount Faber lanes here.

Del Rosario, Asia's top female bowler, averaged 204.17 pins but still trailed frontrunner Ann-Maree Putney of Australia by 161 pins.

Former World Cup champion Shalin Zulkifli of Malaysia checked in second at 1341, followed by Canada's Kerrie Ryan-Clach (1310), Japan's Hiroko Shimizu (1302), Indonesia's Angelina Karto (1299), Germany's Martina Beckel (1283), France's Laurence Fievet (1270), Cyprus' Niki Schiza (1268), Denmark's Annette Biltoft (1267) and Norway's Irene Kragh Eckell (1259).

Canadian Jack Guay assumed leadership after the second round of the men's competition by scoring 2818 in 12 games. He rolled 1486 in the second six-game block yesterday.

Singapore at 2759, follo Al Qub Celli (2 den Bos nen (27

Iloilo, Negros booters near title collision

GAMES TODAY
(Iloilo Sports Complex)
8 a.m.—Negros Occidental vs Cagayan
10 a.m.—Iloilo vs Cebu

ILOILO CITY—Host Iloilo and bitter rival Negros Occidental swept their respective groups with nary a problem Monday to move within a win of setting up a title showdown in the first PFF-Adidas Futsal Championship at the Iloilo Sports Complex covered court here.

The Negrenses topped Group A after dumping Tarlac, 14-1, in the morning and then capped their dominance with a masterful 8-3 triumph over Cebu-Lhuillier in the afternoon to finish the eliminations with a 3-0 card.

Not to be outdone, Iloilo also scored runaway victories over FA Rizal, 13-2, and Cagayan/Misamis Oriental, 13-4, respectively.

The Negrenses will face Cagayan while the Ilonggos take on the Cebuanos in the semis of the event sponsored by WG&A Superferry, Aboitiz, Red Ribbon and Petron.

The Cagayanos made it to the semis by stunning Laguna, 5-4, in the crucial match. Cagayan's Jhulfed Royo played hero when he found the net with only two minutes left.

Cagayan finished with a 2-1 record in Group B while Cebu also wound up with a 2-1 mark in Group A.

Drawing inspired performances from Nonoy and Joshua Fegidero, the Negrenses encountered little problem in dispatching the Tarlac booters as they displayed crisp passing and brilliant plays that earned them raves from the crowd.

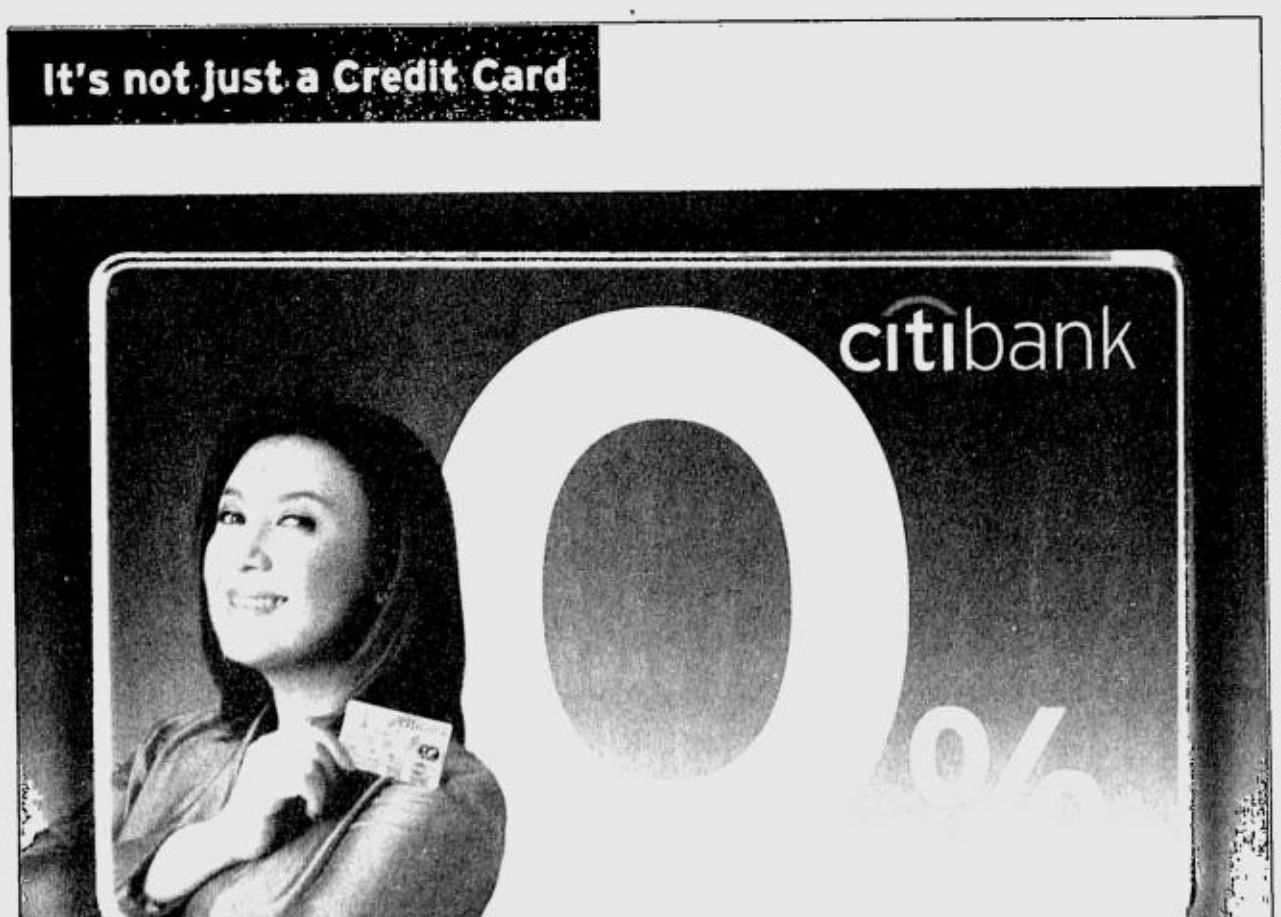
The Fegidero brothers tallied three goals e

Brya Javella gos as two ga enough

Cebu the mo day by ream's doro.

PRESIDENTIAL GOLD CUP: PCSO Chair Sergio Valenc from right) signs a memorandum of agreement with the Inc. and the Philippine Racing Commission, represented Ramon Ereñeta Jr. (seated left) and Philracom chair Jaim on the staging of the prestigious 32nd PCSO Presidentia Sunday at the Santa Ana Park. Also at the ceremony we PCSO's committee on races chair Jose Malang, publicity Garcia, AGM for corporate planning Israel Estrella, AGM Paruginog, AGM for marketing and production Nilo Chi races manager Rey Empremiado.

It's not just a Credit Card



It's enjoying 0% interest on ALL items* this Christmas.

Now available at:
ABENSON

*0% interest is available under the 3-month tenor for a minimum single or accumulated receipt of P3,000 from Nov. 13, 2004 to Jan. 31, 2005. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2877, Series of 2004. 0% interest is also available on wide selections under the 6, 9, 12 and 18-month tenors from Nov. 9, 2004 to Dec. 31, 2004. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2819, Series of 2004.

Double your chances of winning in the Citibank Preferred Brands Raffle Promo when you PayLite your purchases at Abenson, Electroworld, Home Plus and Avant.
See flyers for more details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2729 Series of 2004

PayLite INSTALLMENT PLAN

citibank

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Scud Missile 2. Thywillbedone/Just Joshua 3. Ahoy My Boy
Race 2—1. Noble House 2. He's Splendid 3. Epic Energy 4. Divine Right
Race 3—1. Gold Money 2. Soy Numero Uno 3. Look Who's Playing 4. Original 5. Mas Que Nada
Race 4—1. Queen Banana/My Rabbonnie 2. Half Medium 3. Native Prince 4. Dynasty
Race 5—1. Formidable Ella 2. Yokozuna 3. Ocean Cookie/Risk Taker 4. Sir G Manila Magic
Race 6—1. Bingbong 2. F Golden Moment 4. Par
Race 7—1. Pulilan Beauly Eagle 3. Decidido 4. G Heart 5. Power of Lon
Race 8—1. Race for Gold ing Glory 3. Wild Or Red Thunder 5. Sham Sham 6 Hong Kong Girl

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

UZON

RAMOS

CATALAN

as bans stars

Team standouts 'privileged pros'

Ramos, Alfie Catalan, Albert Primero, Lloyd Reynante, Victor Espiritu, Bernard Luzon , Ronald Gorantes, Thomas Martinez and Joel Calderon.

Apart from being enlisted men of the Armed Forces, majority of the Trade Team riders get monthly salaries from Casino Filipino on top of allowances when they race abroad, according to Rivas, regarded as the Tour's original Eagle of the Mountain.

The announcement of the ban was lauded by participants of the 2005 Air21 Tour Pilipinas qualifying yesterday, including national pool member Arnold Marcelo, who formed the tip of a five-man first group in the 194.6-km massed start race that started in Lian, Batangas, and wound up in Alfonso, Cavite.

Marcelo, of Marikina City, towed Nueva Ecija's Orlie Villanueva and Arnel Espino, Plaridel's Benito Lopez and Vietnam SEA Games mountain bike bronze medalist Frederick Feliciano to the finish in four hours, 51 minutes and 28.76 seconds as they stood out among the 289 riders who answered the starting gun.

The Tour veterans, including former champions Warren Davadilla, Arnel Quirimit and Bernardo Llentada and the nifty Loreto Mandi, advanced to today's Day Two race—a 39.6-km individual time trial from Balayan, Batangas, to Tagaytay City.

The PNCA adopts a points system to determine the 78 cyclists who will ride for 10 teams of eight riders each in the summer Tour. Reigning Sprint King Enrique Domingo and Rookie of the Year Baler Ravina are seeded to the next Tour.

ranks 18th in World Cup

WITHIN STRIKING DISDTANCE The Philippines' Liza del Rosario, Asia's top female bowler, averages 204.17 pins but still trails frontrunner Ann-Maree Putney of Australia by 161 pins. THE STAR OF MALAYSIA/ANN

Remy Ong was second ved by UAE's Muhamed 741), Italy's Maurizio Netherlands' Marcel van 33), Finland's Kai Virtaceland's Magnus Magnusson (2703), Thailand's Siriphon Mayura (2691), Poland's Pawel Bielski (2688) and Costa Rica's Alejandro Reyna (2672).

Overnight leader Jason Belmonte of Australia and 45 other players from Squad B, including the Philippines' Chester King, have not completed their second-game block.

The bowlers will roll a total of 24 games with the top 24 men and top 24 women advancing to the second stage.

KUALA LUMPUR—Former Thai soldier Thongchai Jaidee and Scotland's Simon Yates are preparing for a two-way shoot-out for Order of Merit honors at the season-ending Volvo Masters of Asia.

Defending champion Thongchai leads Thai-based Yates by just under $53,000 on the money list heading into the $500,000 event at the lush Kota Permai Golf and Country Club, which starts Thursday.

With $99,000 on offer to the winner, and $62,000 to the runner-up, Yates cannot finish lower than second place if he is to deny Thongchai a second Order of Merit title in four years.

Que plays spoiler

Looming as the tournament's dark horse is the Philippines' Angelo Que, winner of the Carlsberg Masters 2004 Vietnam event last month.

Que came from behind to beat the Thai hotshot by two shots for his breakthrough victory on the Asian tour. He was the first Filipino to win an Asian Tour since 1998, when Rodrigo Cuello topped the Hong Kong Open.

Thongchai, who has pocketed just under $360,000 in prize money this season, looks well-placed to retain his title. But the Thai ace is taking no chances and has flown his swing coach to Malaysia to keep an eye on his game.

The move was partly in response to Thongchai's display at the Omega Hong Kong Open last week, where he finished joint 38th after a mixed four rounds where he shot 67-68-72-73.

European Tour success

Thongchai, the first Thai winner on the European Tour following his Malaysian Open success, has some injury woes though in his title defense, saying a back strain has been troubling him.

"I wasn't able to turn my body fully on the back swing in Hong Kong and used my hands more which resulted in stray shots," he said.

"(My swing coach will) fly down to Kuala Lumpur with me to keep an eye on my swing, which has some faults at the moment."

Yates, meanwhile, is enjoying a career-best season with one win and seven top-10s and has surpassed the $300,000 mark in earnings this year.

Yates, a former downhill skier for Scotland before swapping his skis for golf clubs, is only $4,500 short of reaching the $1 million career earnings milestone. *AFP*

Thongchai-Yates duel seen in Volvo Masters; Que darkhorse

ANGELO Que chips onto the green during the Volvo Masters of Asia Pro-Am. AFP

a (seated, second Philippine Racing Club by PRCI EVP and COO e Dilag (seated right), Gold Cup Race this e (from left) the manager Manuel for finance Betsy cuanco and draw and

suseco and Bob Rommel ck hardest for the Ilong-tied 13 goals in their last ving their provincemates n to celebrate this early. mel Cuizon stood out as inant performer for the ng seven goals in the ctory over Oriental Min-

ASEAN MEET

Olympian Rivero leads crack RP team

RIVERO

ATHENS Olympic veteran Marie Antonette Rivero leads a big group of the Petron National Taekwondo Team that will leave for Indonesia tomorrow to compete in the 7th Asean championships set Dec. 9-13 in Jogjakarta.

According to Philippine Taekwondo Association president Robert N. Aventajado, the group includes 14 senior men and women, 16 junior men and women, four officials and three international referees.

Dr. Manolo Gabriel is the delegation head, Stephen Fernandez is the team manager while Victor Emmanuel Veneracion and Roberto Cruz are the senior men's and women's and junior men's and women's coaches, respectively.

The three referees in the group are Loreto Velasquez, Mario Frigillana and Jaime Robianes.

Taekwondo jins from 10 other countries—Indonesia, Thailand, Myanmar, Laos, Singapore, Malaysia, East Timor, Vietnam, Cambodia and Brunei—are vying for honors.

PTA vice president Sung Chon Hong expects his wards to do well. "We're always rated among the favorites in this tournament," said Hong.

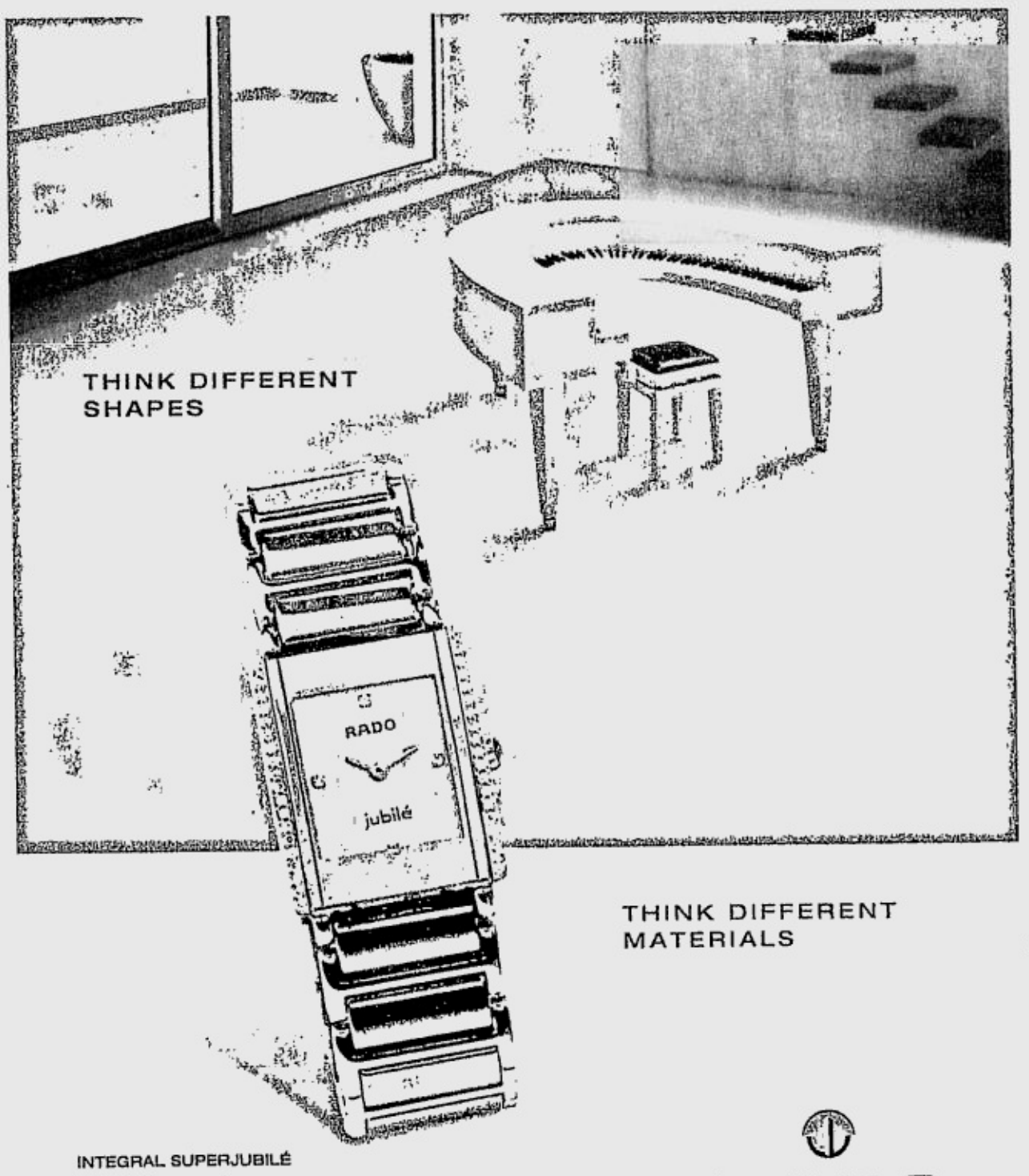
Aside from Rivero, the members of the team sponsored by Petron, Philippine Sports Commission and Accel are:

Senior men—John Paul Lizardo, Carlos Padilla V, Manuel Rivero Jr., Brix Darmo Ramos, Ernesto Juan Mendoza, Alexander Briones and Dax Alberto Morfe

Senior women—Kathleen Eunice Alora, Loraine Lorelie Catalan, Mary Diorlyn Papelera, Esther Marie Singson, Ma. Criselda Roxas and Margarita Bonifacio

Junior men—Nicole Mapilisan, Paolo Miguel Angeles, Giorgio Von Gerri de Guzman, Mark Reynald Dizon, Dennis Rocel Resaba, Loreto Velasquez Jr., Karvin Ong and Vladimir Baniqued

Junior women—Crystal Pauline Reyes, Pauline Therese Angeles, Gerrielyn Roco Aranzanso, Aphrodite Brillantes, Kathleen Kaye Roble, Rubylyn Mapa, Kathleenn Valenzuela and Kirstie Elaina Alora.



THINK DIFFERENT
MATERIALS

INTEGRAL SUPERJUBILÉ
High-tech ceramics
Scratchproof sapphire crystal
Case and dial with real diamonds
Triple safety clasp made of titanium

RADO
SWITZERLAND

www.timeline.com.ph
101 The Podium, ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City | Phone: (02) 687-3077
Also available at NoCurfew branches: SM City Pampanga (045) 963-3721 • SM City Cagayan de Oro (088) 859-1193 • SM City Davao (082) 297-3588

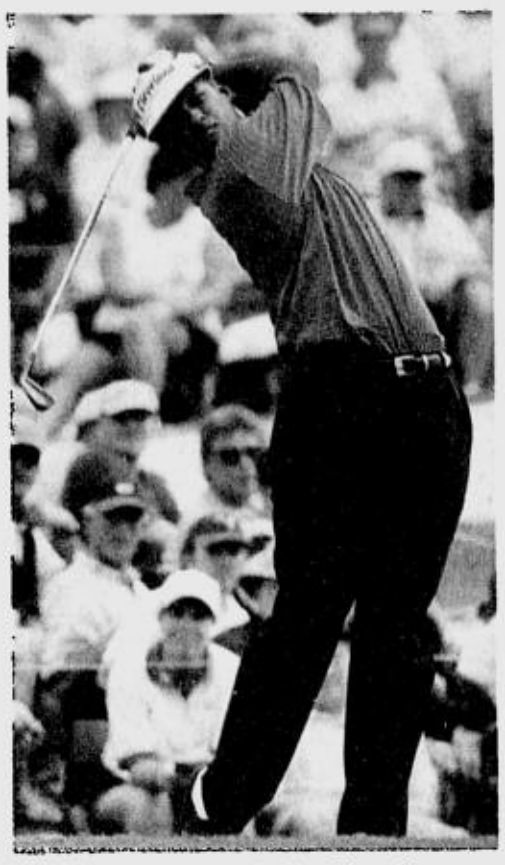
ROCK THE ROAD!
WEEKLY WINNERS
1. Gary Corpuz, Binan, Laguna
2. Nick Salamera, Caloocan City
3. Ramon Cubrilla, Zamboanga City
4. Daniel Garcia, Pasig City
5. Francis Pesigan, Sta. Cruz, Laguna

Congratulations to the Lucky winners of Joe Rocket Alter Ego Jacket for monthly winners and Special Edition Rudy Project shades for weekly winners, just one of the many prizes up for grabs in the Castrol zoompromo

MONTHLY WINNERS
1. Rudy C. Ranola Jr., Pangasinan
2. Leonila Santos, Meycauayan, Bulacan
3. Wilbert Navarra, Makati City

Hurry and join the winners league as the Castrol Zoom Mania continues...For more details pls. log on to www.castrolzoomclub.com or call the Castrol Zoom hotline at 02-8337798.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE



VIJAY Singh caps an unbelievable golf season by earning the nod of his peers

No debates, Singh is golf's best this year

JACKSONVILLE, Florida—Vijay Singh made sure there was no debate about who was No. 1 in golf.

Disappointed last year by losing to Tiger Woods in a close race, Singh used that as motivation to turn in a dominant season that made him an easy choice as PGA Tour player of the year.

"This year was a landslide," Singh said Monday from New York, where he was presented the Jack Nicklaus Award, which is voted on by PGA Tour players. "My thought this year was to play hard and play good for the whole season. That was a fulfilling thing. I didn't have to wait for the votes."

The PGA Tour doesn't release the final votes, although that didn't stop Singh from asking whether any of his peers voted for someone other than him.

How could they?

Singh dethroned Woods at No. 1 in the world ranking by beating him in a dramatic duel outside Boston in September. He finished so strong that Singh shattered Woods' earnings record, becoming the first $10 million man in golf. And by winning six of his last nine events, he became only the sixth player in PGA Tour history to win at least nine times.

"It's been a big year," Singh said. "I never thought it was going to be this big, but it's so satisfying to know it has come to this. It was well worth the journey. It's just overwhelming."

Singh could have been talking about any number of journeys.

It was tough enough coming from South Pacific islands of Fiji, where Singh used to run across an airport runway to get to the golf course.

Banished from tournament golf over allegations he doctored a scoreboard, Singh worked as a club pro in Borneo and a bouncer at a bar in Scotland until he could save up enough money to play on the European tour, and eventually make his way over to America.

But the toughest leg might have been this year. Singh figured it would take at least two or three years to have a chance to be No. 1 in the world, and he got it done sooner than anyone imagined.

It started with a victory at Pebble Beach, then back-to-back wins in New Orleans and Houston. He won the Buick Open outside Detroit by holding off John Daly and Woods, then captured his third major at the PGA Championship in a playoff at Whistling Straits.

Singh swept all the big awards in golf—the Arnold Palmer Award for winning the money title with $10.9 million and the Vardon Trophy for having the lowest scoring average. He earlier locked up the PGA of America player of the year, which is based on points.

Next up is the encore.

Singh turns 42 in February, but he already has started a new workout program "to take it a little higher," and he sees himself playing into his 50s as long as he stays competitive.

But he has gone from chasing Woods to being ahead of the pack, and Singh wants to stay there.

"As they say, it's really hard to get to the top, but to stay there is going to be the hardest thing," Singh said. "I feel like I'm in an open plain, where all I see is the horizon. I feel like I'm running, and everyone is chasing me. I'm just running as fast as I can.

Other awards

Craig Stadler won Champions Tour player of the year, while Jimmy Walker was voted best on the Nationwide Tour.

The PGA Tour rookie of the year also was an easy choice—British Open champion Todd Hamilton, 39, who got his card at Q-school a year ago after toiling for a dozen years on the Asian and Japan tours.

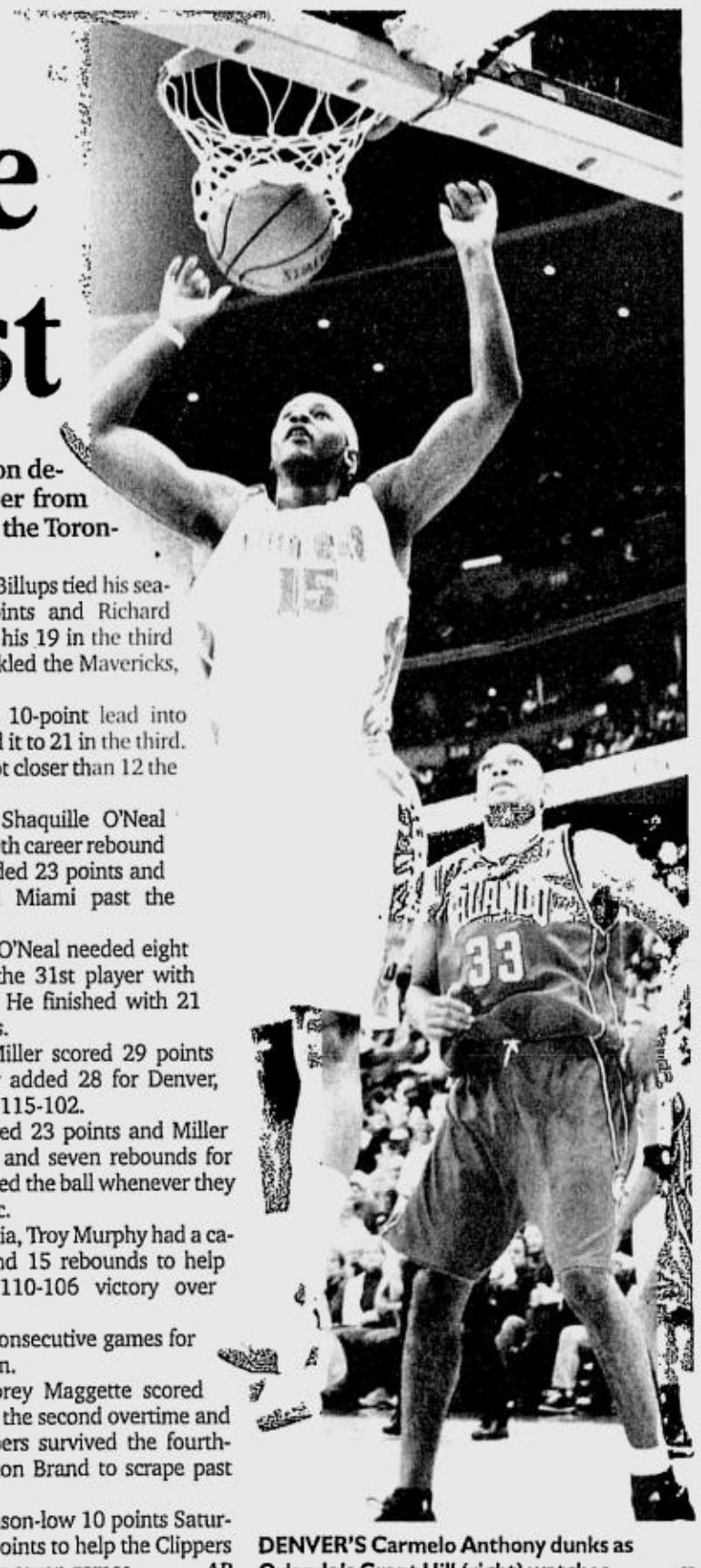
Hamilton won the Honda Classic with a birdie-birdie finish for a one-shot victory over Davis Love III, then went toe-to-toe with Ernie Els over the final 40 holes at Royal Troon, beating him in a playoff.

John Daly won PGA Tour comeback player of the year, winning the Buick Invitational in a three-man playoff for his first PGA Tour victory in nine years, and his first on US soil since 1994.

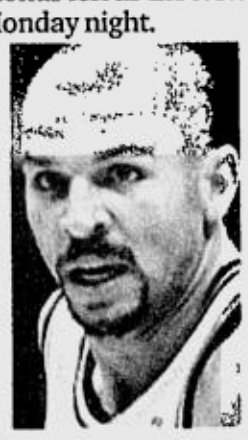
Mark McNulty of South Africa was the Champions Tour rookie of the year, while Hubert Green returned from cancer and was Champions Tour comeback player of the year. *AP*

COMEBACK KIDD

Nets receive timely assist



EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey—Jason Kidd made his season debut and assisted on Richard Jefferson's game-winning jumper from the lane with 7.1 seconds left as the New Jersey Nets defeated the Toronto Raptors, 88-86, Monday night.



KIDD: Back in action

After sitting out the first 16 games recovering from left knee surgery, Kidd had 10 points, six rebounds and three assists in 21 minutes with the Nets restricting his playing time.

Jefferson had 26 points, nine rebounds and eight assists for the Nets, who began the night in last place in the Atlantic Division after winning only four of their first 16 games with Kidd sidelined.

Vince Carter had 22 points for Toronto, but he missed a driving layup just before the final buzzer that would have sent the game to overtime. Chris Bosh added 15 points.

In Atlanta, Josh Smith scored the tiebreaking basket off an offensive rebound with 17.6 seconds remaining, then blocked a shot to help the Hawks snap a nine-game losing streak with a 96-92 triumph over Philadelphia.

One day after turning 19, the teenager was a major reason the Hawks won for only the third time in 17 games this season, overcoming a season-high 36 points by Allen Iverson.

In Chicago, Tony Parker scored 17 points and Tim Duncan had his 16th double-double of the season to help San Antonio win its eighth straight game, a 91-75 rout of Chicago.

Duncan finished with 12 points and 11 rebounds, while Manu Ginobili and Devin Brown added 12 points each.

The victory improved the Spurs to an NBA-best 16-3.

In Dallas, Chauncey Billups tied his season high with 24 points and Richard Hamilton scored 13 of his 19 in the third quarter as Detroit shackled the Mavericks, 101-85.

The Pistons took a 10-point lead into halftime, then stretched it to 21 in the third. The Mavericks never got closer than 12 the rest of the way.

In Salt Lake City, Shaquille O'Neal pulled down his 10,000th career rebound and Dwyane Wade added 23 points and 12 rebounds to lead Miami past the slumping Jazz, 100-80.

Entering the game, O'Neal needed eight rebounds to become the 31st player with 10,000 career boards. He finished with 21 points and 13 rebounds.

In Denver, Andre Miller scored 29 points and Carmelo Anthony added 28 for Denver, which ripped Orlando, 115-102.

Kenyon Martin scored 23 points and Miller also had seven assists and seven rebounds for the Nuggets, who pushed the ball whenever they could against the Magic.

In Oakland, California, Troy Murphy had a career-high 30 points and 15 rebounds to help Golden State to a 110-106 victory over Boston.

The Warriors won consecutive games for the first time this season.

In Los Angeles, Corey Maggette scored four of his 33 points in the second overtime and the Los Angeles Clippers survived the fourth-quarter ejection of Elton Brand to scrape past Charlotte, 99-93.

Brand, held to a season-low 10 points Saturday, finished with 19 points to help the Clippers win for the sixth time in seven games. *AP*

DENVER'S Carmelo Anthony dunks as Orlando's Grant Hill (right) watches. AFP

SPORTSWATCH

Athletics, swimming officiating course

THE PHILIPPINE Asean Para Games Organizing Committee (Papgoc) will hold a course for athletics and swimming officiating personnel today and tomorrow at Building A of the Philsports Complex in Pasig City. Registration will start at 7 a.m. today. To be held in cooperation with the Philippine Sports Commission, the Asean Para Games preparatory activity aims to update technical officials on the rules and regulations of athletics and swimming events for the disabled.

Pampanga schools BEST Luzon titlists

BAGUIO CITY—Pampanga's St. Scholastica's Academy and St. Anthony's College bagged the SBP and Passerelle titles, respectively, in the recent Milo BEST Luzon regional championships at the Easter College gym here. SSA blasted St. John's Cathedral School, 61-33, to complete a sweep of its three SBP assignments. St. Anthony's toppled St. John's, 71-61, in the Passerelle division. James Mallri starred for SSA with 13 points while Jim Diwa sizzled for St. Anthony with 16.

Don Bosco parbusters play Southwoods

THE DON Bosco Golf Club will hold its Christmas and President's Cup tournament this Friday at the Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club. Club president Joel L. Altea said the new set of club board members elected during the Nov. 18 tournament at the Orchard Golf and Country Club will be proclaimed on Friday during the Christmas party which will be held after the tournament. To be proclaimed with Altea are Tristan Ampil, Renie Floro, Walfrido Tengco, Angelo Alvarez, Isidro Valencia, Rex Piad, Jomarie Hill and Carlos de Leon.

Casas joins Marian Challenge

TOP professionals Cassius Casas and Danny Zarate and young sensation Regan de Guzman will be playing at the Marian Golf Challenge today at the Canlubang Golf and Country Club to help build the luminous Cross of Grace Sanctuary and renovate the St. Isidro the Farmer Parish in Agdangan, Quezon. Event sponsors are Honda, Philippine Airlines, Cargo Haus, Unilever, Clark Hatch, Xtra-ordinary and Viva Films International. For details, call 941-0035 and 997-4855.

Pasko Sa Pasay derby starts Dec. 13

THE ANNUAL Pasko Sa Pasay 4-Cock Derby will be held on Dec. 13, 15 and 17 at the Pasay Cockpit, with a guaranteed prize of P1.5 million. Entry fee is P8,800 with a minimum bet of P5,500. A bonus prize of P100,000 awaits the day champions during the elimination rounds on Dec. 13 and 15. For reservation of cockhouses and other details call 8431746, 8431890, 8166750.

Fastest Kill tomorrow at Sta. Ana

THE SHOWDOWN of more than 150 small-time cockers and breeders unfolds tomorrow via the 2-Cock Super Ulutan/Fastest Kill at the Sta. Ana Cockpit in Makati City. The champion gets P25,000 while the fastest kill gets a bonus of P10,000 plus a refrigerator. Over P100,000 will be given out to the other top winners. Entry fee and minimum bet is P2,200. For inquiries, call 898-3474, 898-3475, 09215191962 and 0918925-1121.

Roligon event stakes a Pajero

THE CHAMPIONSHIP of the P2M-Pajero Incredibol Na, Apordabol Pa 5-Cock Derby unfolds at the Roligon Mega Cockpit with more than 150 matches slated. With 40 new entries fielding five roosters each, aficionados will be treated to a long action-packed evening perked up by the exciting battle for the fastest win in its championship match, in which a 3-door imported Pajero is at stake.

JOEY Makalayo (center) proudly holds the Class A championship trophy following his victory in the recent Pugad Lawin sa Northview-7th Invitational Golf Tournament at the Sta. Elena Golf Club sponsored by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO). Looking on are Pugad Lawin sa Northview Chapter president Apollo Robles (left) and tournament chair Eduardo Abores.

NBA great acquitted; Sprewell probed

HOUSTON, Texas—National Basketball Association legend Calvin Murphy was acquitted on six counts of sexual abuse involving five of his daughters here Monday after jurors deliberated for only two hours.

The former Houston Rockets star shook hands with his attorney and wiped off tears after hearing the verdict on three charges of indecency with a child and three charges of aggravated sexual assault.

During closing arguments, prosecutors painted Murphy as a cheat and a child molester while defense attorneys maintained that the daughters accusing him of sexual assault were lying in an orchestrated effort for money.

The daughters alleged the abuse occurred between 1988 and 1991 when they were between ages 6 and 13.

Standing tall in a league of giants despite a tiny 5-foot-8 frame, Murphy averaged 17.9 points and 4.4 assists during a 13-year career that ended in 1983. He was inducted into the Hall of Fame a decade after his retirement.

Murphy owns the single-season NBA record with a 95.8 freethrow percentage and his all-time total of 89.2 percent is third-best.

Meanwhile, the NBA is reviewing comments Timberwolves swingman Latrell Sprewell allegedly made to a heckler during Minnesota's overtime victory Saturday over the Los Angeles Clippers, according to a newspaper report.

Sprewell responded to the female heckler with a sexually vulgar term, the Star Tribune of Minneapolis reported in its Tuesday editions.

The comment was apparently picked up by a courtside microphone and was broadcast by Los Angeles television station KTLA and by the Timberwolves' broadcast on KSTC television in Minnesota. *AFP*

Lennox likes Williams' chances

LAS VEGAS, Nevada—Former heavyweight world champion Lennox Lewis is confident that British compatriot Danny Williams can defeat Ukrainian big man Vitali Klitschko here Saturday and win the World Boxing Council crown.

The retired former champion, who stopped Klitschko in his final fight before retiring, said that Williams, an unknown until knocking out Mike Tyson in July, must overcome the reach and size advantages of the taller man to have a chance.

"It's not an easy task, because of his size and definitely his reach," Lewis said in a teleconference Monday. "In one sense Danny is going to find it very difficult. But I have a lot of faith and confidence in Danny.

"I believe he can do it. I would love another British heavyweight to take over for me, take the belts and carry on. He has to believe in himself and go out there and do it. But it's not an easy task."

Lewis, whose departure has created a power void in the once-proud division, sees his severe cutting of Klitschko's face in their 2003 fight as an example of what Williams must do to claim the heavyweight throne.

"It definitely will be a factor," Lewis said.

"He definitely cuts easy. It has been his history. I believe if he does get cut, that will weigh heavily on his mind. Once he gets cut, he doesn't know how bad it is. He's going to be in a rushed, panic state trying to win quickly."

Lewis rated Klitschko as the best of the three major heavyweight title holders, ahead of World Boxing Association champion John Ruiz of Puerto Rico and International Boxing Federation champion Chris Byrd of the United States.

"I'm going to give that to Vitali, but there are a lot of unanswered questions about him that he needs to answer," Lewis said. "There's a big stamina question... another is 'Can he really take it on the chin?'

"In his past he has shown he doesn't have a big heart, can't go on and weather the storm. There are probably other questions we need to find out and answer." *AFP*

Legend Aaron blasts Bonds

ATLANTA, Georgia—Hank Aaron, the man whose Major League Baseball home run record is being chased by Barry Bonds, has verbally blasted the San Francisco Giants slugger, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported.

The San Francisco Chronicle detailed last week in transcripts of grand jury testimony that Bonds took substances from his personal trainer that were steroids, although Bonds claimed he did not know they were improper drugs.

Bonds is 53 homers shy of breaking Aaron's all-time American record of 755 homers. But Aaron told the newspaper here that extra power and endurance gained from steroids, knowingly or not, taint Bonds' pursuit of history.

"Any way you look at it, it's wrong," Aaron said.

Bonds, 40, told the grand jury investigating the BALCO steroid distribution case that he thought the substances, known as the clear and the cream, were flaxseed oil, a nutritional supplement and a salve to combat arthritis.

"At that age, you have to ask 'Did he accomplish all of this by rejuvenating his strength from day to day with those substances?'" Aaron told the newspaper. "I know that when you reach a certain age, you just don't bounce back as quickly as you think you can when you are playing all of those games.

"Drugs won't help you hit the ball. But can they make you recuperate consistently enough to hit the kind of home runs that these guys are hitting?" *AFP*

'Peter Pan and the Time Machine' at Megamall for 2 weekends

TRUMPETS' Christmas musical offering for the whole family, "Peter Pan and the Time Machine," opens a two-weekend run at the SM Megamall Cinema 10 on Saturday, Dec. 11.

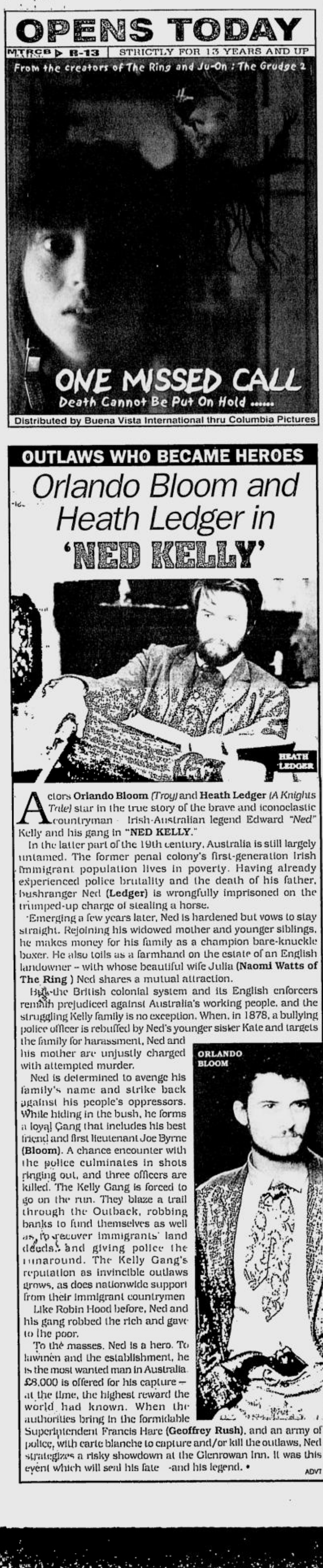
"Peter Pan and the Time Machine" tells the story of two children's fantastic journey through time and space to find the best Christmas present ever.

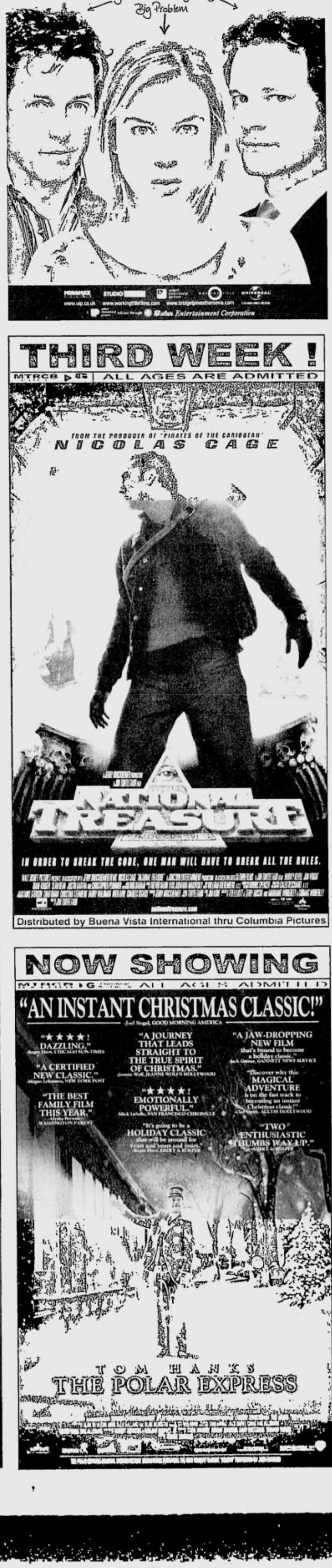
Trumpets has tied up with retail giant SM Megamall, which will devote its Cinema 10 to family-friendly Trumpets productions. Both companies stand against the screening of R-18 movies in the malls.

"Peter Pan and the Time Machine" stars Chevy Mercado as Peter Pan, Jun Ofrasio as Captain Hook, Sam Concepcion, Cheska Ortega, Roden Araneta, Lawrence Martinez, Analiza Zialcita, Mayen Bustamante, Joann de la Fuente, Raymond Concepcion, Jennie Nuyda, David Cosico and many others.

The book and libretto are by Jaime del Mundo, direction by Audie Gemora, choreography by James Laforteza, sets by Tata Tuviera and costumes by Eric Pineda. The robot design is by Liz Batoctoy, and the flying machine is by Eric Torrente.

It goes on Dec. 11, 12, 18 and 19 with performances at 11 a.m., 3 p.m., 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. For tickets, call Trumpets, 633-5010 or 6362842; Ticketnet, 9115555, or Ticketworld, 891-9999.





OUTLAWS WHO BECAME HEROES

Orlando Bloom and Heath Ledger in 'NED KELLY'

Actors **Orlando Bloom** *(Troy)* and **Heath Ledger** *(A Knight's Tale)* star in the true story of the brave and iconoclastic countryman - Irish-Australian legend Edward *"Ned"* Kelly and his gang in **"NED KELLY."**

In the latter part of the 19th century, Australia is still largely untamed. The former penal colony's first-generation Irish immigrant population lives in poverty. Having already experienced police brutality and the death of his father, bushranger Ned **(Ledger)** is wrongfully imprisoned on the trumped-up charge of stealing a horse.

Emerging a few years later, Ned is hardened but vows to stay straight. Rejoining his widowed mother and younger siblings, he makes money for his family as a champion bare-knuckle boxer. He also toils as a farmhand on the estate of an English landowner – with whose beautiful wife Julia **(Naomi Watts of The Ring)** Ned shares a mutual attraction.

But the British colonial system and its English enforcers remain prejudiced against Australia's working people, and the struggling Kelly family is no exception. When, in 1878, a bullying police officer is rebuffed by Ned's younger sister Kate and targets the family for harassment, Ned and his mother are unjustly charged with attempted murder.

Ned is determined to avenge his family's name and strike back against his people's oppressors. While hiding in the bush, he forms a loyal gang that includes his best friend and first lieutenant Joe Byrne **(Bloom)**. A chance encounter with the police culminates in shots ringing out, and three officers are killed. The Kelly Gang is forced to go on the run. They blaze a trail through the Outback, robbing banks to fund themselves as well as to recover immigrants' land deeds, and giving police the runaround. The Kelly Gang's reputation as invincible outlaws grows, as does nationwide support from their immigrant countrymen.

Like Robin Hood before, Ned and his gang robbed the rich and gave to the poor.

To the masses, Ned is a hero. To lawmen and the establishment, he is the most wanted man in Australia. £8,000 is offered for his capture – at the time, the highest reward the world had known. When the authorities bring in the formidable Superintendent Francis Hare **(Geoffrey Rush)**, and an army of police, with carte blanche to capture and/or kill the outlaws, Ned strategizes a risky showdown at the Glenrowan Inn. It was this event which will seal his fate -and his legend. •

ADVT

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

ENTERTAINMENT

Text us your feedback: Inquirer ent name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Editor Louie C. Camino
Assistant Editor Emmie G. Velarde

PROMO GIMMICK, SAYS ALFIE

'Diet, Kristine consulted me about marriage'

SO IN LOVE, so elusive. Kristine Hermosa and Diether Ocampo

By Nini Valera

WITHOUT confirming or denying that a wedding had taken place, Mayor Toni Esquivel of Jaen, Nueva Ecija, said on national television that lovers Diether Ocampo and Kristine Hermosa had sought his advice on what documents they needed to get married.

But veteran entertainment reporter and talent manager Alfie Lorenzo is sure the alleged marriage is merely a gimmick to promote the couple's next movie, "Lihim," which will be released next year.

"You have to analyze things," Lorenzo told INQUIRER Entertainment last Monday. "They have been teasing the public about an important announcement. But when they are asked about it, they would only say, 'secret.' Remember, 'Lihim' is the title of their movie.

"*Ibinigay ko sa kanila ang listahan ng mga dapat nilang ibigay* (I gave them a list of what they needed to submit)," said Mayor Esquivel in an interview on GMA 7's "S-Files" last Sunday.

"They asked if they could get married anytime, and I told them it depended on the requirements that I told them they needed," Esquivel said in Filipino. "They told me they would come back when they have already decided to get married."

Esquivel said the couple returned in the first week of September with the requirements.

"A marriage is always open to the public," the mayor said. "But it depends on the people. If they think it would be better not to say anything about it, it wouldn't be wrong. If it would harm people, [keeping quiet about it] would be a great help."

He stressed that he could not stop people from researching if a marriage between Diether and Kristine had indeed taken place. "That's legal," he said. "Anybody has the right to fall in love and get married."

Esquivel said he thinks Diether and Kristine are in love with each other.

"Continue loving each other," he said to the lovers. "That's all."

News of the couple's marriage started as blind items in tabloid columns two weeks ago, but Diether and Kristine were identified as the couple by columnist Ethel Ramos last Friday only.

Diether and Kristine could not be found. Not even ABS-CBN, of which they are contract stars, knew where they could be reached.

Rica Dylim, public relations manager of the network's Talent Center, told INQUIRER Entertainment last Monday that she herself could not get in touch with the two stars.

"But we would be issuing a statement soon," said Dylim.

She said news of the couple's marriage also came as a shock to her. She said she had told the couple's handlers to find them so she could ask them if it were true that they had gotten married.

"One of them is supposedly out of town," Dylim said.

Kristine's handler, Allan Real, told INQUIRER Entertainment last Monday that he has not talked to Kristine about the alleged marriage.

"I haven't seen her since Saturday evening," Real said.

Kristine also did not show up at the press conference of her movie, "Enteng Kabisote," last Monday. She stars opposite Vic Sotto in the movie that is part of the Metro Manila Film Festival later this month.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

A2-1

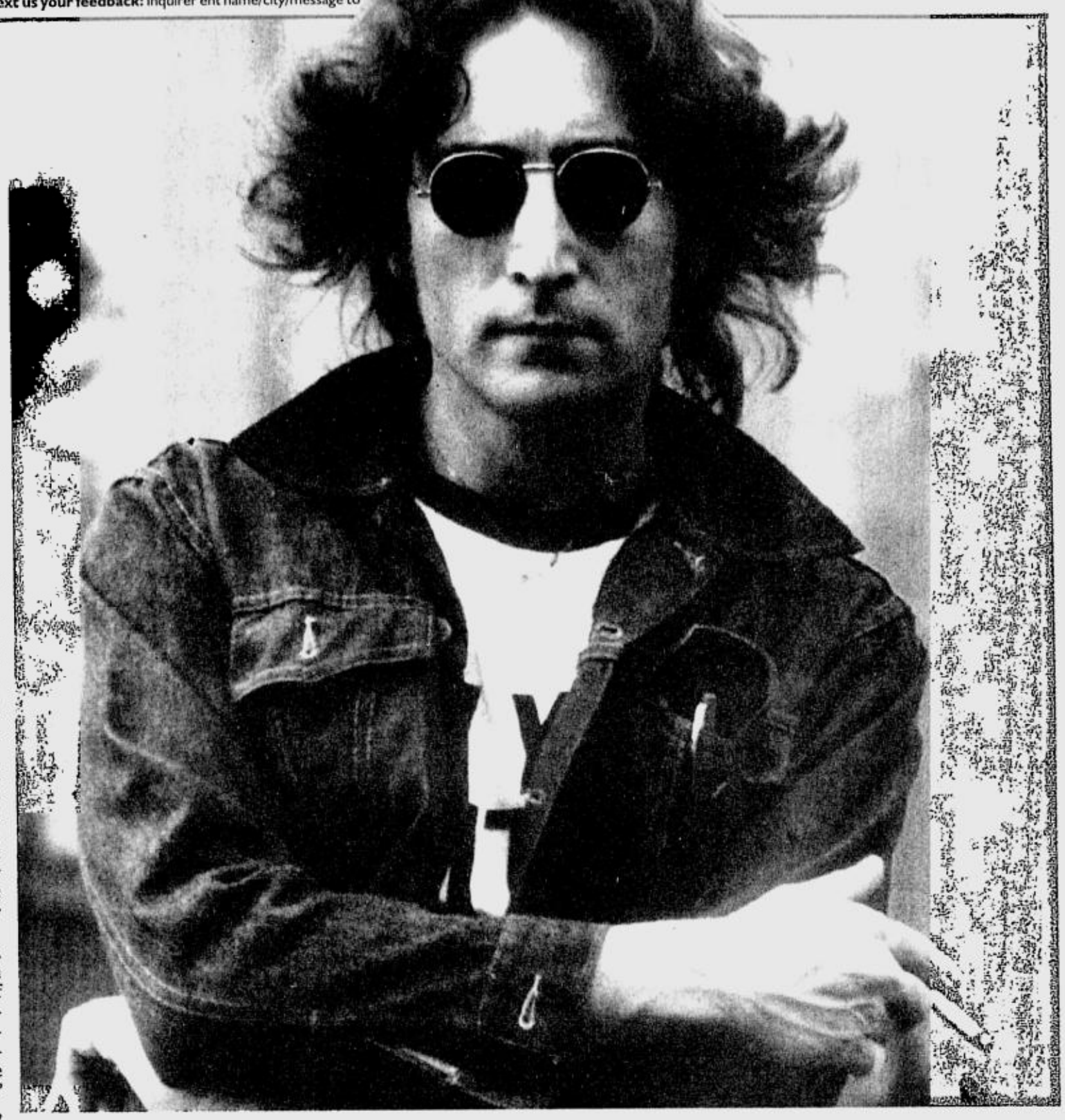
E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino
Assistant Editor Emmie G. Velarde

Text us your feedback: inquirer ent name/city/message to

The legend of John Lennon



"IN MY LIFE." Lennon was a musician, writer, poet, filmmaker, artist and political activist

By Pocholo Concepcion
Contributor

FOR MANY people, pop music history is synonymous with John Lennon—ex-Beatle, artist and peace advocate whose 24th death anniversary falls today.

Not everybody may have known that it was Lennon's mother Julia who first taught him how to play a musical instrument, the banjo, to the tune of Buddy Holly's "That'll Be the Day." And that Lennon, as a 12-year-old kid bored with school, had published his own book of compositions called "Daily Howl," which included drawings, news stories and commentaries. Or that Capitol Records, EMI's US label, had "flatly refused to release early recordings of the Beatles, saying they're 'not going to be a hit... we don't want it.'"

These and loads of other revealing information are contained in the book "Lennon Legend: An Illustrated Life of John Lennon," a beautifully conceived hardcover that comes in a box with a 60-minute audio CD of interviews and a live recording of "Imagine," as well as 40 removable reproductions of handwritten song lyrics, artwork and memorabilia attached throughout the book's pages.

Before, during, after

Written by James Henke, former writer and editor of Rolling Stone magazine and currently VP of exhibitions and curatorial affairs of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum in Cleveland, Ohio, "Lennon Legend" is a refreshing look into the life and times of the most outspoken member of the world's biggest and most popular band.

In the book, much of what we know about Lennon before, during and after Beatlemania is heightened and complemented by detailed backgrounders and direct quotes, culled from extensive interviews conducted in 1970 and 1980.

For instance, we discover that John formed his first band, the Black Jacks, in 1957 with a friend from high school. Later, he would urge that they change the band's name to the Quarry Men (since they were students at the Quarry Bank Grammar School).

One day, as the Quarry Men were scheduled to play in a church garden event, a friend of Lennon's brought along a 15-year-old "rock and roll devotee," who, Lennon remembered, "was playing Eddie Cochran's 'Twenty Flight Rock' with the guitar" and asked him, on first meeting: "'Do you want to join the group?' And I think he said yes the next day."

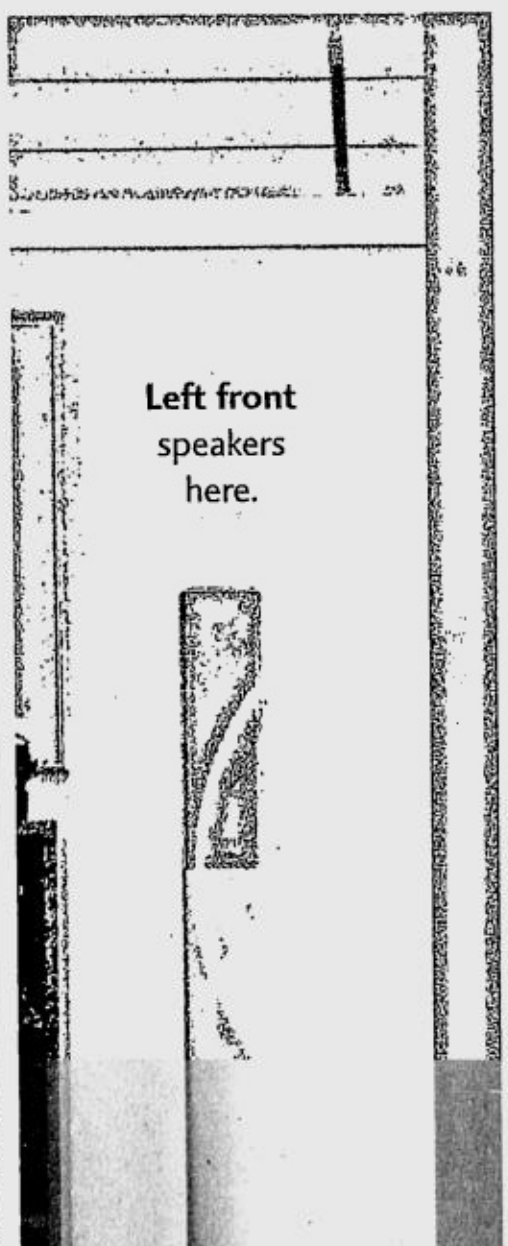
That 15-year-old was Paul McCartney.

Loss and remembrance

We also learn that Lennon, under pressure in 1965 to compose new songs for a Beatles al-

THE LEGEND/ A2-2

SOUL MATES. He found happiness and peace of mind with Yoko Ono



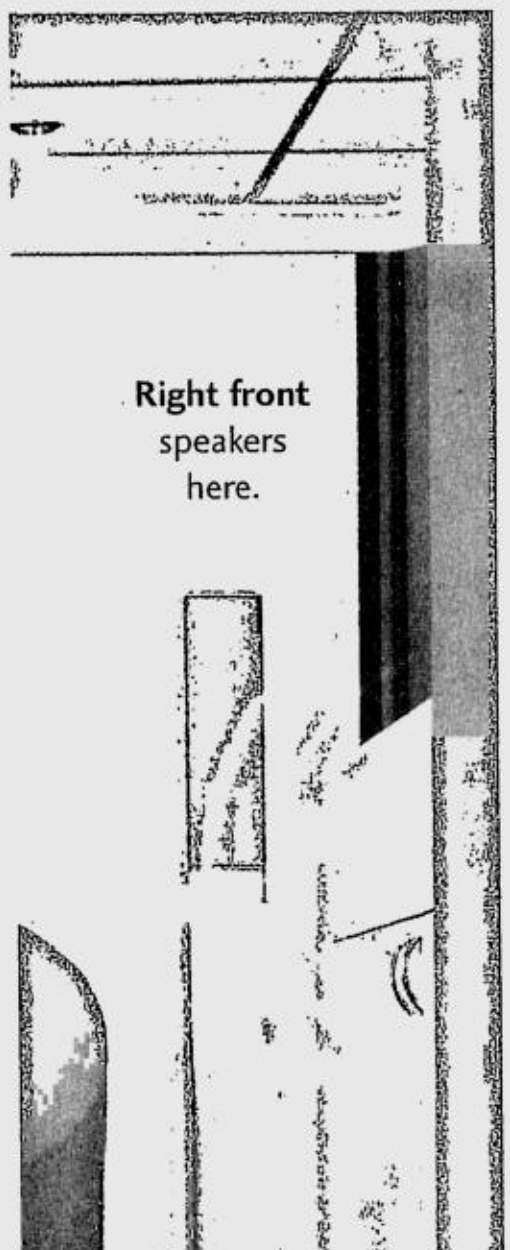
LG Wireless Home Cinema garners 5 stars with Widescreen Review

LG Electronics scored another technology highlight when Widescreen Review Magazine awarded 5 stars to the company's Wireless Home Cinema System. "Widescreen Review®" is intended for both the casual viewer and the optical disc home theatre enthusiast. Both the print edition and interactive webzine edition of the magazine caters to the home theatre enthusiast with an appreciation for widescreen motion pictures presented on home formats like DVD in their original aspect ratio composition as produced for theatrical exhibition. The reviews of Widescreen Review Magazine is meant to educate readers as to component selection and system setup considerations that are aimed at "the best that it can be" home theatre experience. 5 stars, which was given to the LG Wireless Home Cinema System represents the highest accolade the magazine rewards products, with technical excellence in presentation as its primary concern.

"Widescreen Review" is designed to inform and enlighten as it explores the world of widescreen visuals and stereophonic surround sound and multichannel 5.1-format discrete digital surround delivered through the DVD and HDTV mediums.

LG Wireless Home Cinema System is a unique multifunctional home entertainment system in one slim and easy package, with five speakers and a subwoofer to provide an unparalleled 5.1 channel surround sound. While other brands are trying to copy the wireless technology, they can only do well with either an FM Transmitter or Infrared, which has very low frequency thus having too many signal interference or noise.

Stylish and sleek, the LG Wireless Home Cinema's speakers deliver crisp and interference FREE sound even when placed 10 meters apart using a similar technology employed by mobile phones known as Bluetooth. Using a 2.4 GHZ digital wireless



The chronicler of Wilkie's slow death

"WILKIE'S death was a tragedy that should never have happened," says documentarist Crouse (left) of her late subject (above). "He did not have to die. The point I was making with the film was that Wilkie was a human being"

EUFEMIA "Minnie" Solomon Crouse may not be as well-known as Oscar-winning documentary maker Michael Moore but, in the Philippines, she is just as much a crusader as her American counterpart.

SHOW STOPPER

Two years after her award-winning documentary "The Case of Wilkie Duran Monte: Toxic Chemical Victim" first screened, Crouse is still fighting for the rights of ordinary people.

"Wilkie's death was a tragedy that should never have happened," she says.

"And it reflects the total disregard some of these companies have for human life."

Crouse's film tells the story of Wilkie, who worked for a mining company on the picturesque island of Siquijor in the central Philippines.

Rape of Siquijor

When a machine he was working on broke down, Wilkie's foreman ordered him to siphon off a mix of chemical waste, an act which exposed him to the deadly toxins which the documentary says eventually killed him. He was just 44 years old.

In just 18 minutes, Crouse's film covers the last two harrowing years of Wilkie's life and the environmental rape of Siquijor by local mining company Goodyield/Lazi Bay Resources, a joint venture with Green Island Cement of Hong Kong.

Discovered by the Spanish 300 years ago and originally named Isla del Fuego (Fire Island) because of the fireflies which made it glow at night, Siquijor is the smallest of four provinces that form the central Visayas region.

But residents claim that what was once an idyllic island has been destroyed by the mine's operations.

Local environmentalist Cielo Lumacad said the mining company had violated environmental laws and built roads into the limestone quarry through property it did not own.

The company was forced to halt its mining on the island after Crouse discovered it did not have a mining permit.

Crouse's documentary has been celebrated in the Philippines, where it won the Best Documentary award at the 2002 CineManila International Film Festival. At the Brussels International Film Festival the same year, it won in the Committed Film Championing a Cause category.

Pain and sorrow

For 57-year-old Crouse, what began as a documentary on one man's plight has become a personal crusade to protect the island's fragile ecosystem.

Her campaign has not been without pain and sorrow.

Not only did she watch Wilkie endure his slow, agonizing death, she has also been the target of abuse and anonymous threats. Her home on the island was destroyed by a mysterious fire.

She has fought three libel actions against the company, winning one and having the other two thrown out of court.

Crouse said the company's total disregard for Wilkie and his plight appalled her and prompted her to make the movie.

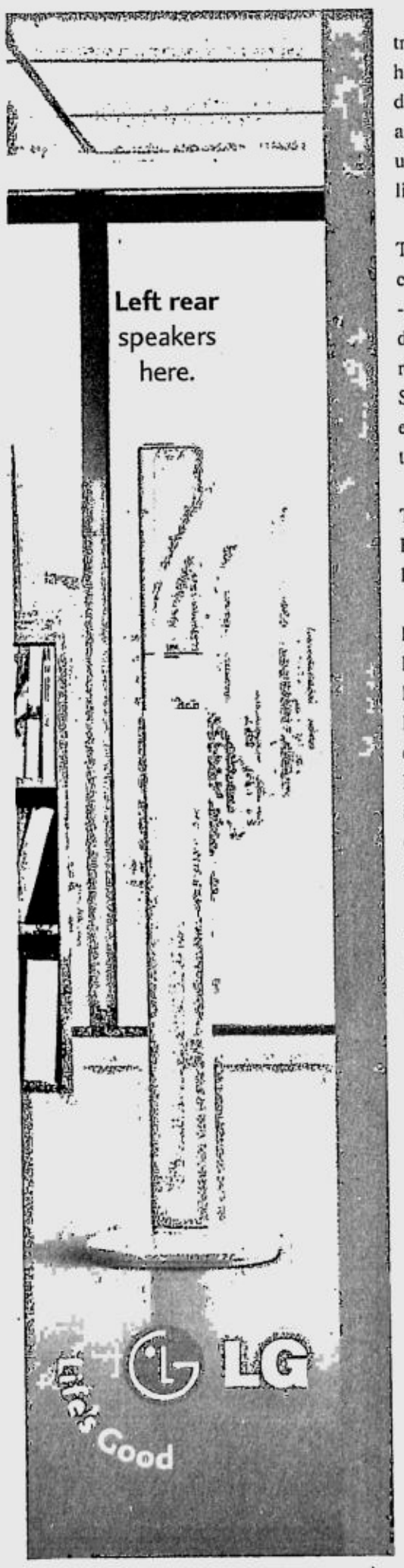
"To the company, Wilkie represented nothing," she told Agence France-Presse in an interview in Manila, where she was preparing her case to have the mining operations on the island terminated for good. "He was just a pair of hands. Nothing more."

Divorce, car accident

Wilkie Duran Monte died on June 10, 2001, from what doctors described as septicemia.

"They didn't go into details," said Crouse. "In fact, at one stage, they thought he might have had leprosy. There was no real attempt

THE CHRONICLER/ A2-6



transmitter with 1,6000 times/sec frequently hopping, the system eliminates messy and dangling wires in home theaters set ups to fit any location, allowing users to create the ultimate cinema experience right at their very living rooms.

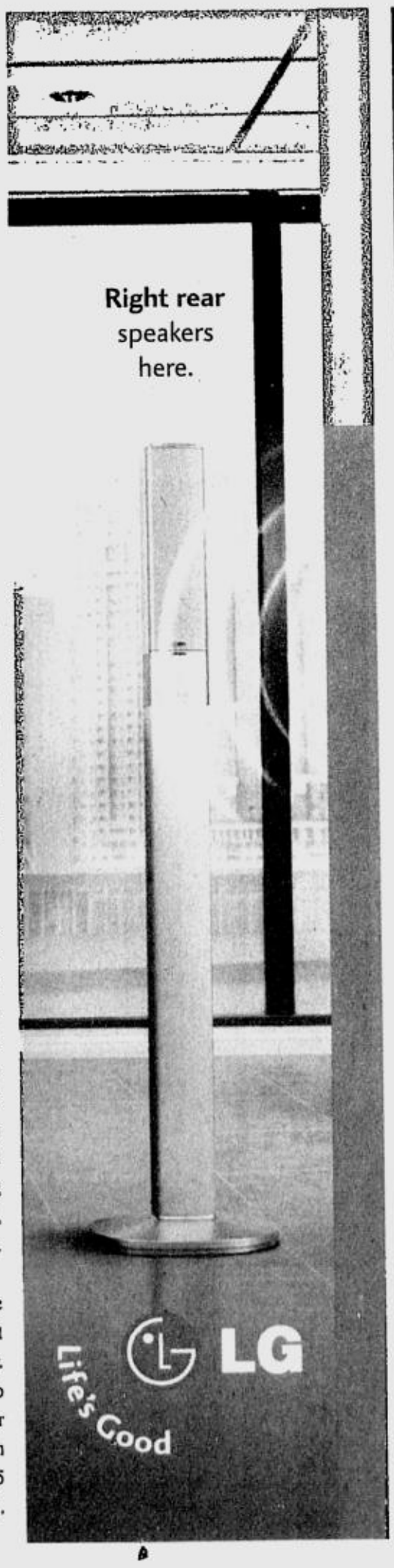
The Wireless Home Cinema Systems compatible to all known kinds of CD format --- DVD video/audio, jpeg viewer, mp3, CD digital audio, Kodak picture, CD recordable/rewritable, DVD-RW/+RW, VCD, Super VCD, Windows Media Audio and equipped with progressive scan and digital tuning.

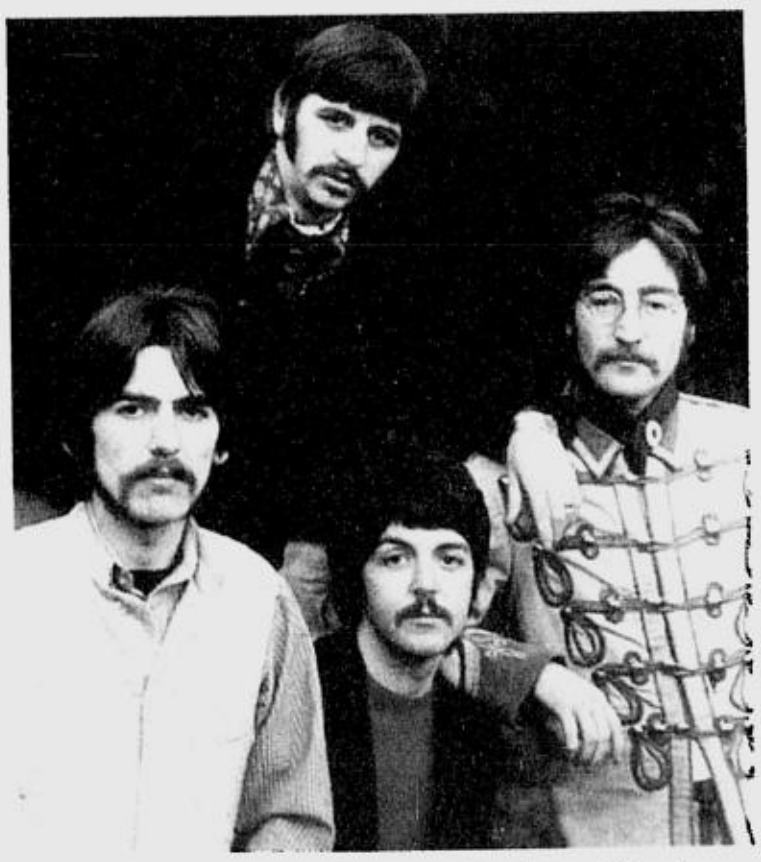
These wireless breakthroughs from LG Electronics are available in two models: the LH-W5100A and DA-W6100A.

LG Electronics Philippines (CEO Mr. Jeff Hong) was established in 1988 as the digital leader in Home Appliances and Display Devices by introducing breakthrough and cutting edge products in the Electronics, Information and Communications products arena with annual sales of P2.5 Billion and employing more than 200 highly motivated and skilled individuals.

As a major player in the Electronics, Information and Communications products arena, The LG Digital Display and Multimedia provides core technologies for highly advanced digital products and is a world leader in Digital Display products including plasma TVs, LCD TVs and monitors, and digital high-definition Televisions (HDTV) and its Digital Appliances is a global leader and leading innovator in Washing Machines, Refrigerators, Microwave Ovens and Air conditioners.

LG Electronics' goal is to enable the intelligent networking of digital products that will make consumers' lives easier than ever. For more information please log on to www.lge.com.ph or call the LG Customer Information Center at 6402525 or send an SMS to LG Text Service at 0917-8242525 (Globe) and 0920-9002525 (Smart).





WITH George, Ringo and Paul in 1967 for "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band"

The legend of John Lennon

From page A2-1

bum intended for a Christmas release, decided to write about his childhood home of Liverpool and his memories of places and things he had seen while riding the bus. He thought about names such as Penny Lane, Church Road, and the Abbey Cinema.

But it didn't work out until he decided to delete the names of specific places and go for a more general approach. As he wrote the lyrics, the song "took on a new, mournful tone... about loss, a remembrance of friends and lovers of the past."

That song was "In My Life," which John said was his "first real major piece of work," and now considered by many of the world's highly regarded composers and musicians as one of the greatest songs of all time.

We also begin to understand why, in his desire to do something outside the band, Lennon got involved in non-Beatles projects like publishing two books ("In His Own Write," "A Spaniard in the Works") and playing a part in an antiwar film ("How I Won the War"), among others, including the hobby of going to art exhibits.

It was while attending a private viewing of the works of an avant-garde Japanese woman artist in London in 1966 that Lennon met his soul mate, artistic collaborator and second wife, Yoko Ono.

Yoko is, by the way, credited for making the book's publication possible. She's responsible for providing much of the book's highlights—surprise pullout reproductions of original handwritten lyrics, drawings, cards, photos, flyers, posters, performance contracts, concert tickets, articles, letters, notes and whatnot—all inserted to enhance a particular anecdote or vignette being discussed on the same page.

It would be unfair to dismiss "Lennon Legend" as yet another effort at perpetrating the rock star myth or simply a marketing

THE LEGEND/ A2-6

Negative effects of television

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

TELEVISION has become such a prevalent, ubiquitous peripatetic part of our lives that we don't pay it much mind—except when it really becomes excessively irresponsible, over-the-top and exploitative, and shocks us into belated and retroactive concern.

Otherwise, as media observers handily sum it up, we're grateful to that TV set in our home because it serves us in many different ways: as a time-filler ("You have nothing to do? Watch TV"); a tranquilizer ("The kids are so hyper, they need to watch for a while to simmer down"); a problem solver ("Kids, stop fighting—it's time for your favorite show!"); a punishment ("If you don't stop teasing your little sister, no TV for you!"), a reward ("If you get a high mark in the examination, you can watch an extra hour of TV"), and a procrastination device ("I'll just watch one more program before I do my homework").

In the Philippines, we have thought up yet other uses for TV—as an electronic "*yaya*," as a rich source of *chismis*, as a way to make some extra money by joining the many contests and raffles that abound on the local boob tubes. So, we do our foreign counterparts *three* better!

On the *other* hand, irresponsible and exploitative television worries parents and educators because of its negative effect on young and therefore vulnerable viewers.

Aside from their obvious problem, TV has been found to be less helpful in these ways:

It keeps families from engaging in other activities. Psychologists have noted that families that watch TV a lot don't engage enough in the talks, games, festivities and discussions through which much of a child's learning takes place, and through which his character is formed.

TV is so appealing that it upstages many other activities. Children are likely to choose watching TV over having a story read to them, for instance.

And children reject most other family activities, because they regard them as "boring" when compared to the habit-forming "excitement" of television.

It takes the place of play. Before children are 3 years old, opportunities for active play and exploration are hugely diminished, and replaced by the hypnotic gratification of televiewing.

TV makes children less resourceful. Since watching TV makes diversion so easy and pleasurable, children don't feel the need to look for more active alternatives. As a result, they become more passive than they should be, and don't develop initiative and creativity.

TV makes children want to be like everybody else. Television is so popular as a mass medium that it quickly establishes trends and fads that millions of young people instantly latch onto and imitate in order to "belong."

Unfortunately, they don't become their own persons, and just take the easy way out for acceptable by doing what most other kids are doing. Where's the originality, creativity and dynamism in that? (*To be concluded.*)

Feedback

FROM **Paul R. Mortel** of Marikina City: "We very badly need a good film archive where excellent Filipino movies can be stored for future generations to enjoy and learn from.

"Let's hope that once the country's economy improves, the government will give the establishment of a film archive a priority. (There are so many laws passed by Congress that remain unimplemented because the government does not have the money.)"

Harry Potter on video

"HARRY POTTER and the Prisoner of Azkaban" has made its debut on video with a special VCD pack. The previous Potter movies that go with the package, "Sorcerer's Stone" and "Chamber of Secrets," also feature a movie trailer in each video.

In "Sorcerer's Stone" Harry embarks on the adventure of a lifetime when, on his 11th birthday, he learns that he is the orphaned son of two powerful wizards, and himself possesses strong magical powers.

In "Chamber of Secrets," Harry starts his second year at the Hogwarts school for magic by meeting a mysterious elf, riding a flying car, and discovering his ability to talk to snakes and gigantic spiders, all to keep Hogwarts safe.

And in "Prisoner of Azkaban," Harry faces a Hippogriff, Boggarts, soul-sucking Dementors and an escaped prisoner, all leading to the revelation of the truth about the death of his parents.

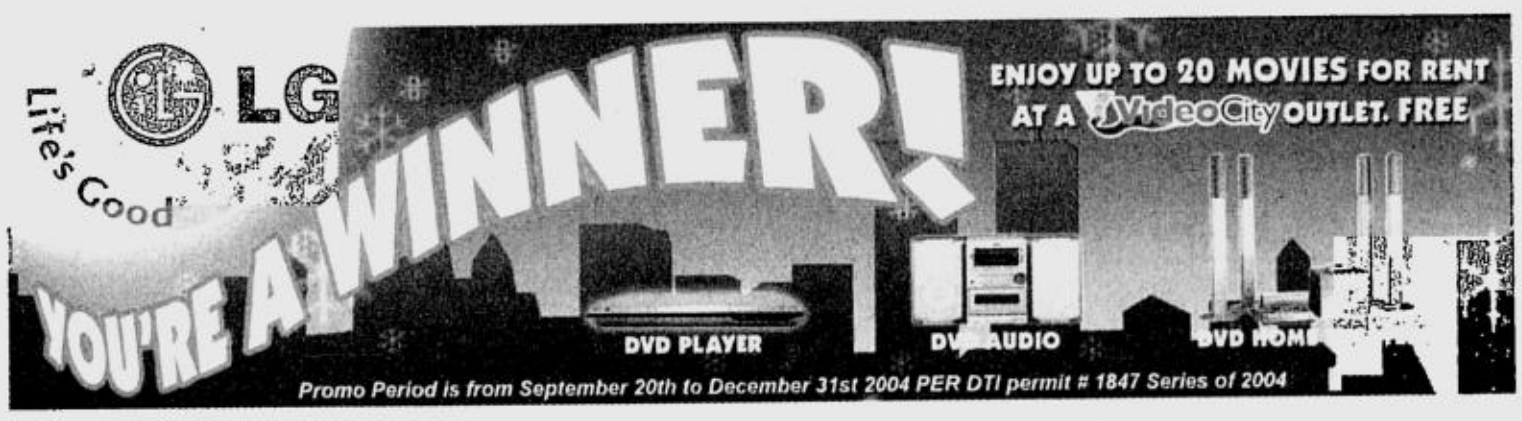
The Harry Potter series is released by Warner Home video at all Odyssey outlets.

'Sayonara Changi'

ON DEC. 15 at 8 p.m., Discovery Channel will give viewers an insiders' tour of Singapore's Changi Prison, one of World War II's most notorious prisoner-of-war camps. The documentary, "Sayonara Changi," captures a pilgrimage of some of its former internees as they say goodbye to the building that once enslaved them.

DIVA DEVASTATED NO MORE

Singer, actress and host Zsa Zsa Padilla reveals her struggles, pains, joys and achievements. Like any other celebrity, Zsa Zsa has had to face and overcome negative speculations thrown by industry vultures. But she has learned the art of dealing with cruel gossip and Zsa Zsa remains unfazed. "People just don't realize how much emotional turmoil I went through," she says. "I had just recovered from something so devastating it almost broke me. But I can't go onstage or on-cam crying, sulking or feeling bitter, can I?" With an unflappable temperament and a grace that perhaps can only come from experience, Zsa Zsa is a winning example to anyone, singer or not, who faces difficulties in life, love and living. Read more about her in Mega Magazine's latest issue. Published by Mega Magazines & Publications Inc., the magazine is now available in all leading bookstores and newsstands nationwide. Call 631-2859.



"KANTAPELLA" includes The Tux, The Opera and the The Company

Tux, Opera, Company in 1 Yule show

THE SPIRIT of the season lives on in song as Crossover Presents "Christmas Kantapella" on Friday, Dec. 17, at 8 p.m. at the Greenbelt 3 Park, Makati.

SHOW TIME

Take a short break from Christmas shopping and enjoy this special celebration that brings together the finest voices in an evening of pure a cappella music featuring The Tux, The Opera and The Company.

The Tux, made up of Jeric Mariano, Manny Aquino, Popo Suanes, Carlo Bulahan, Eric Anonio, Dante Sibug and Monet Silvestre, started performing in the early '80s and built up a repertoire of old standards from the golden musical eras of the '40s, '50s, '60s and the '70s.

The Tux has received many awards, including the Aliw Award for Best Showband/Group, and has been honored by the National Arts Council of Singapore.

The Opera, composed of Sushi

TUX/ A2-5

FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND

A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

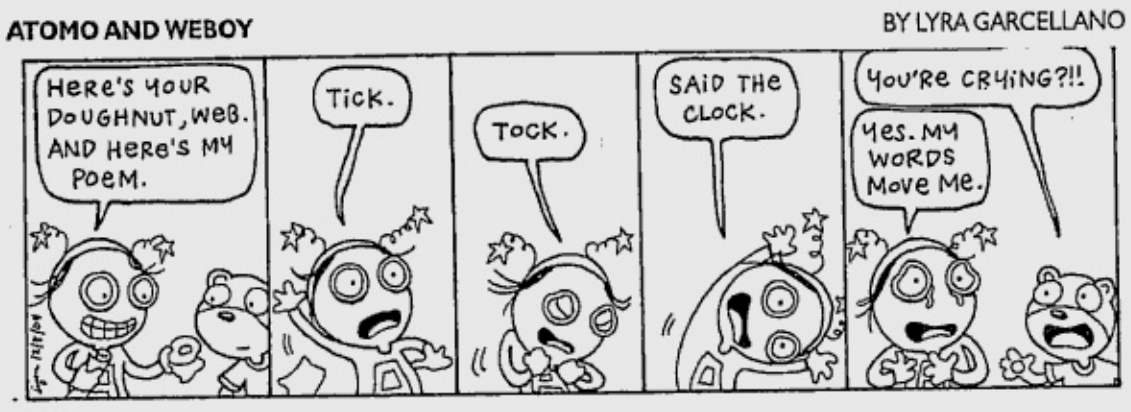
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG

PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO



DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are easygoing, friendly, upbeat and optimistic. Nevertheless, despite this cavalier mask, you'll always throw yourself wholeheartedly into whatever you embrace. You have abundant energy. Perhaps this is why you constantly seek out new thrills and adventures. The year ahead can be one of the most fortunate years of your life! Expect a miracle.
Birthdate of: Kim Basinger, actress; Jim Morrison, musician; Teri Hatcher, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Do something out of the ordinary today. Break from your daily routine. Browse in different shops and stores; go to or from work in a different way.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Work to clear up details related to insurance, wills, inheritances, shared estates and joint property. You can make great progress in these areas now.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): For a relationship to be successful and rewarding you must be as good for your partner as he or she is for you. Ask yourself if this is the case.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You have amazing ideas about making improvements at home and at work. You see better ways of doing things. Not only that, others know you're right!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): It's time to test your creative abilities. All Leos are creative. Don't be the doubter, watching over your shoulder. Be the person you want to be.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Many important family issues arise now. Address these one at a time. Just remember that you can't be all things to all people. (You're human too.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This is not a good day to stay at home. Get out and hustle! Your mind is busy today, and you feel highly curious about many things. It's a good day for a drive or a walk.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Now is the time to give your money scene some serious thought. Make friends with your bank account. Find out what you have and what you owe, then you will at least know.

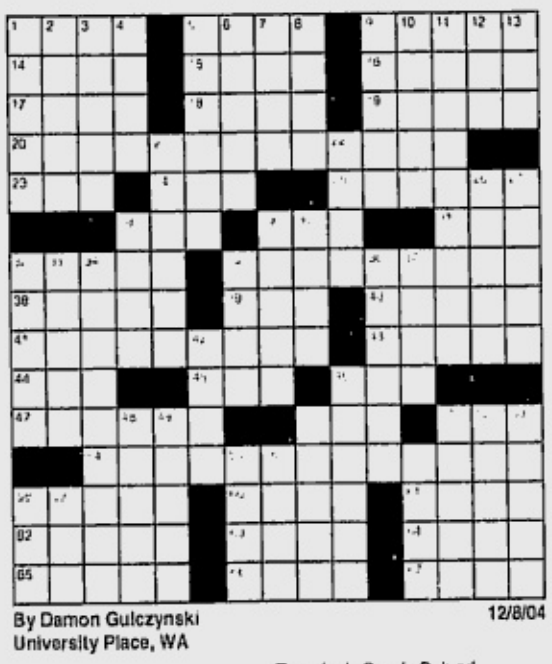
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): The Sun, Mercury and Pluto are all in your sign now. This attracts people to you, especially ex-partners. (Remember: Living well is the best revenge.)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Try to respect your need for increased rest and peace and quiet. That's what you need now. Stay at home and give yourself this time to restore and replenish yourself. (A month from now you'll be glad you did.)

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Discussions with friends can be quite meaningful. Likewise, relations with clubs, organizations and conferences are well worth your while now. Others can benefit you!

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): No matter how private you are, for some reason you're in the spotlight now. People notice you because you are singled out for some special reason.

DAILY CROSSWORD



ACROSS
1 Make small talk
5 Stag attendee
9 Cousin of bingo
14 Hot flower?
15 Greek god of war
16 Fencing feint
17 "East of Eden" twin
18 Wishes undone
19 Snicker
20 Wilbur or Orville
23 Barrett of early Pink Floyd
24 Unmasker's exclamation
25 Classify
28 Genetics letters
29 Gumshoe
31 Twosome
32 Beeped
35 Conservative faction
38 Taxing month
39 ET's vehicle
40 Anatomical networks
41 Cancellations of losses
43 Perfect places
44 Silent assent
45 Uncertainties
46 __ Palmas
47 Actor Wesley
50 Turf
51 Sole cleaner
54 Life-stage event
58 Diner seating choice
60 Hoover Dam's lake
61 Songstress Tori
62 Kofi of the U.N.
63 Diminutive suffix
64 Fabric fluff
65 Artist's undercoat
66 Craving
67 Piano parts

DOWN
1 Talons
2 Part of HST
3 Steer clear of
4 Zesty flavor
5 First First Lady
6 Island west of Curacao
7 Lascivious look
8 Exxon, formerly
9 Photographic solutions
10 Fencing tools
11 Goddess of love
12 Born as
13 Bullring cheer
21 Control
22 Dashboard gauge, for short
26 Encounter
27 Forum wear
28 Housing grp.
29 Petty quarrels
30 Swelled heads
32 Hocks
33 Stage front
34 Pigskin showplaces
35 Stiff, frilled collar
36 Tire patterns
37 Unites
42 Seine tributary
46 Fully equipped
48 Pocket breads
49 Of a people: prel.
50 Sudden outpouring
51 First Lady of the '50s
52 Pain and suffering
53 Auditions
55 Handwriting on the wall, e.g.
56 Outdoor celebration
57 Polio vaccine developer
58 Pouch
59 __ for the money..

By Damon Gulczynski
University Place, WA

12/8/04

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

T	W	A	S	■	R	A	S	P	■	A	D	D	L	E
A	A	R	P	■	E	V	I	L	■	D	A	R	E	D
I	F	M	A	Y	B	E	S	A	N	D	B	U	T	S
■	F	O	R	E	S	■	■	S	E	E	■	■	■	■
A	L	I	G	N	■	L	L	M	O	N	S	O	L	E
W	E	R	E	T	O	Y	S	A	N	D	N	U	T	S
F	O	E	■	A	B	E	T	S	■	■	E	R	S	E
■	■	■	M	S	■	■	■	■	T	S	■	■	■	■
H	E	R	E	■	■	L	E	A	T	■	■	U	P	■
I	D	C	E	R	T	A	I	N	L	Y	H	A	V	E
S	T	A	K	E	O	U	T	S	■	L	U	R	E	R
■	■	■	A	N	N	■	■	P	U	R	O	R	■	■
A	M	E	R	Y	C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S	■
S	M	O	T	E	■	H	O	A	R	■	L	E	G	O
P	I	N	E	D	■	T	I	P	S	■	E	D	E	N

(C)2004 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All rights reserved. 12/8/04

MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

STARS IN PIXEL LAUNCH
TV hosts Edu Manzano (left) and Tessa Prieto-Valdes (with Philips Consumer Electronics general manager Angelo Valenton), were special guests at the launch of Pixel Plus 2 TV, the new state-of-the-art TV set from Philips. Pixel Plus 2 provides the most vivid screen images.

More movements at GMA announced

GMA NETWORK Inc. announced the recent promotion of four more network officials.

Marivin Arayata assumed the post of vice president for Entertainment and concurrent head of the Comedy and Game Division.

Promoted to assistant vice president were Lilybeth Rasonable for the Drama Division, Corazon de Jesus for the Talk/Musicals/Specials Division and Ida Henares for GMA Artist Center.

Ms Arayata was the network's assistant vice president for Entertainment prior to her promotion. Rasonable was previously the Production manager for Drama.

De Jesus was the Production manager for Musicals/Specials before she was promoted to assistant vice president.

The promotion of Henares is in line with the expansion of the Artist Center, which includes the creation of the Talent Development Unit.

Tux, Opera, Company in 1 . . .

From page A2-3

Reyes, Cecile Aurellado, Manolo Tanquilut and Zebedee Zuniga, is a versatile vocal quartet that does pop, jazz, R&B and even classical songs with remarkable ease.

The Opera has endeared itself to Crossover listeners with its performances in Crossover Presents specials.

The Company was formed in 1985. Initially the members sang as backup vocalists for the country's pop stars of the '80s before turning the professional concert act that they are today. The group is composed of Sweet Plantado, Annie Quintos, Cecile Bautista, Reuben Laurente, Andre Castillo and Moy Ortiz, who delve into almost all forms of music genres involving local harmony.

To date, The Company has released 13 albums and received 37 music industry awards, making it the country's most awarded vocal group.

Catch this rare musical special on Dec. 17 at Greenbelt 3 Park, Makati. Call Crossover at, 711-3937, for free invitations.

The event is presented by Equitable PCI Bank and Emirates Airlines in cooperation with Sun Cellular 24/7 and Visa.

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa, Laguna) tel (049) 837.0926
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 (DTS) RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 PA-SIYAM
2 (DTS) BRIDGET JONES
3 (DOLBY) OUT OF REACH
4 POLAR EXPRESS

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 OUT OF REACH
2 (DOLBY) BRIDGET JONES
3 (DTS) POLAR EXPRESS
4 PA-SIYAM

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 FIRST DAUGHTER
2 BCUZ OF U
3 (DOLBY) NATIONAL TREASURE

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) BRIDGET JONES
2 PA-SIYAM
3 (DTS) POLAR EXPRESS
4 OUT OF REACH
5 TOOLBOX MURDER

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283
1 BCUZ OF U
2 SAW
3 (DTS) TAXI
4 (DOLBY) POLAR EXPRESS

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 GHOST HOUSE
2 OUT OF REACH
3 SURVIVING CHRISTMAS
4 THE SIN

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 SAW
2 AFTER THE SUNSET
3 (DOLBY) NATIONAL TREASURE
4 (DTS) POLAR EXPRESS

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) PA-SIYAM
2 CELLULAR
3 (DTS EX) THE FOREGOTTEN
4 FIRST DAUGHTER

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 PA-SIYAM
2 CELLULAR
3 (DOLBY) THE FOREGOTTEN
4 (DTS) FIRST DAUGHTER

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489
1 THE FOREGOTTEN
2 SAW
3 (DOLBY) NATIONAL TREASURE
4 (DTS) SURVIVING CHRISTMAS

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 SKY CAPTAIN
2 SHARK TALE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 7953320
1 PA-SIYAM
2 POLAR EXPRESS
3 (DOLBY) BRIDGET JONES

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

MOVIEWORLD

CINEMA ACCESS
635-5555
FOR ALL BRANCHES

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

• REGIONAL CINEMAS •

STA. ROSA (049) 837-0907 **LIPA** (043) 757-3864 / (043) 312-5870

1 CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS
2 BRIDGET JONES 2
3 THE POLAR EXPRESS
4 SEED OF CHUCKY
5 THE GHOST

1 THE FORGOTTEN
2 OUT OF REACH
3 THE MANCHURIAN CANDIDATE
4 THE GHOST
5 NATIONAL TREASURE

DASMARINAS (046) 852-7125 / (049) 716-4332 **ANGELES** (045) 892-7248

1 DARKNESS
2 TAXI
3 SAW
4 BRIDGET JONES 2
5 CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS

1 FIRST DAUGHTER
2 CELLULAR
3 THE FORGOTTEN
4 THE MANCHURIAN CANDIDATE

IMUS (046) 875-3838 / (046) 471-3168 **STARMILLS** (045) 876-1927 / (045) 961-5270

1 CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS
2 DARKNESS
3 PA-SIYAM
4 NATIONAL TREASURE
5 ALEXANDER
6 BRIDGET JONES 2

1 FIRST DAUGHTER
2 THE GRUDGE
3 PA-SIYAM
4 ALEXANDER
5 NATIONAL TREASURE
6 CELLULAR

BACOLOD (034) 710-1158 / (034) 445-0158 **ILOILO** (033) 335-4107

1 AFTER THE SUNSET
2 PA-SIYAM
3 NATIONAL TREASURE
4 BEFORE SUNSET
5 SAW
6 ALEXANDER

1 NATIONAL TREASURE
2 WHITE CHICKS
3 AFTER THE SUNSET
4 THE POLAR EXPRESS
5 SAW
6 BRIDGET JONES 2

See Mall!

AYALA CINEMAS THX

Movies/schedules may change without prior notice. For verification call 729-7777

ATC (Alabang Town Center)	G1 (Glorietta 1)	G4 (Glorietta 4)		GB3 (Greenbelt 3)	ACC (Ayala Center Cebu)
(DTS) 1 BRIDGET JONES: THE EDGE OF REASON	1 GEORGE & THE DRAGON	1 2046	5 THE POLAR EXPRESS	(DTS) 1 NATIONAL TREASURE	1 THE FORGOTTEN
2 NATIONAL TREASURE	2 PASIYAM	2 NATIONAL TREASURE	6 BIRTH	(DTS) 2 BRIDGET JONES: THE EDGE OF REASON	2 SURVIVING CHRISTMAS
3 ALEXANDER	3 BIRTH	(DTS) 3 BRIDGET JONES: THE EDGE OF REASON	7 ALEXANDER	3 2046	3 CELLULAR
4 2046	4 NATIONAL TREASURE	4 ONE MISSED CALL		4 BIRTH	4 TAXI
5 BIRTH		GB1 (Greenbelt 1)		5 THE INCREDIBLES	5 FIRST DAUGHTER
		1 BRIDGET JONES: THE EDGE OF REASON			
		2 BIRTH			

At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	AYALA CENTER CEBU
ISUZU CAR EXHIBIT December 6 to 12, 2004	ALADDIN & JASMINE GETS STARSTRUCK December 10 to 12, 2004	SACRED HEART COLLEGE FOUNDER'S DAY December 8, 2004

ENTERTAINMENT LIVE!

GREENBELT 2	GREENBELT 3
GREENBELT 2: MUSIC STYLES EVERY THURSDAYS TO SUNDAYS (7-10pm PIDO (Thu), ACOUSTIC JIVE (Fri), FIRST CIRCLE (Sat)	CHRISTMAS CAROLS AT GREENBELT 3 U.P. Singing Ambassadors (Dec. 11), U.P Concert Chorus (Dec. 12)

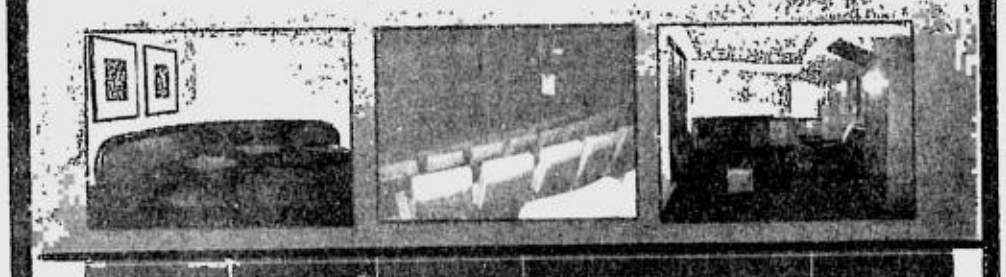
REPERTORY PHILIPPINES presents THE WIZARD OF OZ at REP's GLOBE THEATER - November 13 to December 19, 2004

Ayala MUSEUM — Visit the New Ayala Museum located beside Greenbelt 4 along Makati Avenue. For inquiries, please call 757-7117

Imagine this.
Bringing your friends to an intimate gathering in a THX standard cinema with a sophisticated lounge area executed by the same interior design team of the posh Greenbelt 3 Residences.
You may call it

mycinema

Perfect for intimate parties, exclusive launches, corporate events and other types of private functions. Ayala Cinemas brings you the country's one and only private cinema. Now it can be yours.
For inquiries, please call 752 7862 or 757 3860 to 62



CUSTOMER SERVICE TEXT HOTLINE: 0917-6095900 • CUSTOMER SERVICE HOTLINE: Glorietta - 752-7272; from 10am to 8pm • Greenbelt - 757-4853; from 11am to 12mn • Alabang Town Center - 842-2782; from 10am to 8pm Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231-5342 loc 324 • AYALA CINEMA LINKS: For screening times call 729-7777. Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart). Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

AYALA CENTER · ALABANG TOWN CENTER · AYALA CENTER CEBU — Lovemall!

The legend of John Lennon

From page A2-2

ploy to sustain fan interest.

Genius and leader

All told, the book emerges as a multidimensional portrait of a man who, despite having come from a broken home and seeming to be headed nowhere after dropping out of art school, managed to become a success story by pursuing his life's passion through music. As for happiness and peace of mind, he did find those things, too, even with the breakup of the Beatles and his being "crucified" for getting involved in controversial acts and causes with his unpopular Asian wife.

And although he might have wished, at some point in his starving days as a musician, to make lots of money someday, the guy probably did not imagine he would become one of the most important figures in contemporary music history, who was also a writer, poet, filmmaker, artist and political activist with enormous wit and a huge social conscience, a genius and a leader in more ways than one who "pushed the boundaries of music and art, showing others what was possible."

Ironic as it may seem, Lennon, like Jesus (whom he unintentionally reviled by saying at one point that the Beatles had become more popular than Christ), had so much to live for and yet his life was somehow fated to end abruptly, unexpectedly and tragically.

Then again, 24 years after being murdered by a crazed fan (whose forthcoming release from jail is being opposed by Yoko and fans alike), John Lennon lives on in spirit and through his music. The book "Lennon Legend" is a testament to everything good he stood for.

A bit pricey at P1,895 and considering that there are at least seven other books on the Beatles lining the shelves of Powerbooks in Greenbelt 3, "Lennon Legend" still makes for a great holiday treat (it's actually a Christmas gift from a younger brother)—even as a cheaper companion piece, a pirated DVD copy of "Lennon Legend: The Very Best of John Lennon," has also landed on our lap courtesy of a dear sister. But that's another story.

The chronicler of Wilkie's slow death

From page A2-2

to find the cause of his illness."

But Crouse was not always destined to be a campaigning filmmaker. A divorce and a car accident in the United States in 1988 changed her life.

Having spent most of her adult life in America, where she worked on the Nasa space programme and at one time in the physics and astronomy department of the University of Maryland, she found herself having to rebuild her life again.

The car accident saw her hospitalized for months with a smashed hip. Doctors also found that she was suffering from a rare disease called "avascular necrosis" or "bone death."

Such a diagnosis would have destroyed most people. But despite having to get around with the use of a metal walker, Crouse volunteered herself to be part of a research program at the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore on bone joints.

Before returning to the Philippines in the early 1990s, she enrolled in a television and film production course in San Diego where she produced her first film called "Women in Travel" which focused on ecotourism in the Philippines.

A good man

"Wilkie was my first real documentary," she said.

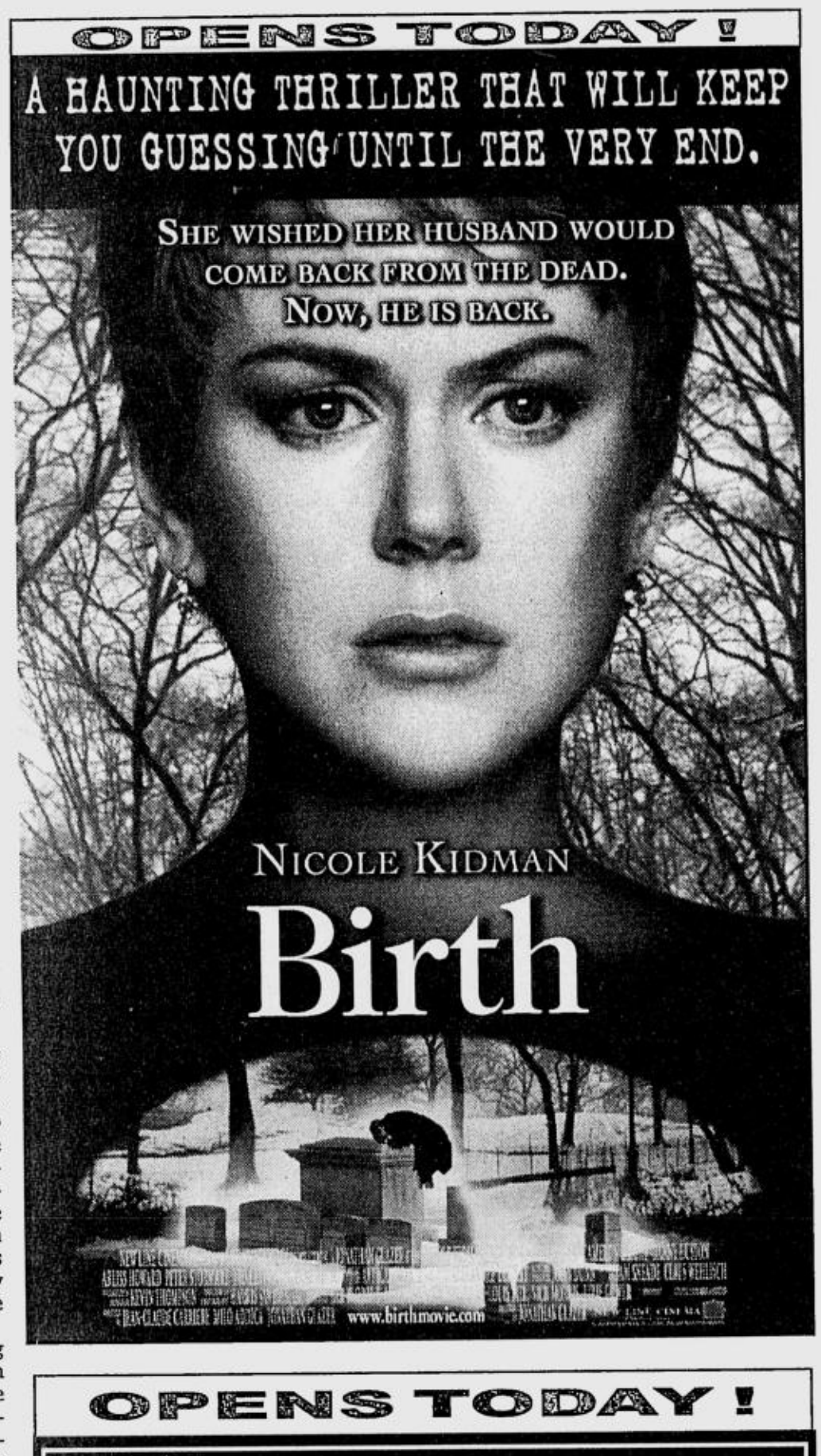
"Having moved to Siquijor, I first heard about Wilkie from his wife who begged me to try and help him. Seeing the state he was in moved me.

"Wilkie was not an educated man," Crouse said. "He was a good man who worked hard to feed, clothe and educate his three children.

"Wilkie did not have to die. But the casual way the company treated him disgusted me. The point I guess I was making with the film was that Wilkie was a human being.

"I know some people have questioned the sincerity of my motives. I know that once you embark on a fight like this, people will take pot shots at you.

"That doesn't worry me. Everyone is entitled to his or her opinions. But it detracts from the issues that affect us all... our quality of life and the destruction of our environment." *AFP*



what to watch

ALEXANDER Subject to MTRCB RATING

SM Bacoor Cinema 4 · SM Cebu Cinema 2 · SM Marilao Cinema 2
SM Davao Cinema 5 · SM Batangas Cinema 2 · SM Dasmariñas Cinema 2

BRIDGET JONES 2 MTRCB Rating: PG 13

SM Batangas Cinema 3 · SM Dasmariñas Cinema 1 · SM Iloilo Cinema 1

CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS MTRCB Rating: G

SM Bacoor Cinema 8 · SM Dasmariñas Cinema 3 · SM Baguio Cinema 4 · SM Batangas Cinema 4

BUNNY GUAROS SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING

SM Pampanga Cinema 1

NATIONAL TREASURE MTRCB Rating: G

SM Batangas Cinema 3 · SM Bacoor Cinema 2 · SM Davao Cinema 2 · SM Iloilo Cinema 4 · SM Cebu Cinema 4 · SM Cagayan Cinema 3 · SM Baguio Cinema 2 · SM Pampanga Cinema 6 · SM Lucena Cinema 2

THE POLAR EXPRESS MTRCB RATING: G

SM Iloilo Cinema 3 · SM Bacoor Cinema 6

SANTA SANTITA MTRCB Rating: PG13

SM Bacoor Cinema 7

Movies are subject to change without prior notice · For complete movie schedule, visit www.smcinema.com

Text your way to Paris

PARIS is just a text message away.

After the successful first week of the Korean drama, "Lovers in Paris," on local television, ABS-CBN gives its loyal viewers a chance to experience how it is to fall in love with the romantic city of Paris, through the "Lovers in Paris" texting promo.

Every day, from Nov. 22 to Jan. 21, four winners of P5,000 each will be chosen in the daily electronic raffle. Viewers simply text in the correct answer to the question about the day's episode.

Contestants should download the specific operator logo for the day by texting LOVERS, the letter of answer, name and address to 2366. Each downloads costs P15 each. Text entries should be in by 11 p.m. of the episode date.

The promo is open to all Globe and Touch Mobile subscribers. Daily raffle winners will be announced the following day.

All entries collected from the whole duration of the promo qualify for the grand raffle where an all-expense paid trip for two to Paris, including airfare and hotel accommodations, awaits the grand winner.

2-disc album of Phil Collins songs

IN THE course of two failed marriages and a third happy one, Phil Collins has managed to write some of today's most unforgettable pop-rock ballads.

The author of such hits as 1984's Grammy-winning "Against All Odds," 1999's Grammy and Academy Award-winning "You'll Be in My Heart" (from the animated film, "Tarzan") and the Grammy-nominated "Separate Lives" always wears his heart on his sleeve.

"For me, writing music is triggered by emotional upheavals," reveals the 53-year-old music veteran. "My job as a songwriter is to tell the truth, and people understand that. I write about those things and people see themselves in the same position."

Phil's amazing two-disc special compilation, "Phil Collins: Love Songs (A Compilation... Old and New)," reminds us of loves lost, and what love still can be.

Besides containing the above award-winning hits, "Phil Collins: Love Songs (A Compilation... Old and New)" also includes such favorites as the upbeat "Two Hearts," an a capella version of "True Colors," the yearning "One More Night," the bittersweet "Do You Remember?" and Phil's famous cover of Patti LaBelle's "Groovy Kind of Love."

Also part of the 25-track album are beautiful, live cuts like 1985's "Separate Lives" (a lovely duet with Bridget Bryant recorded in Berlin) and a cover of The Temptation's "My Girl" that Phil and his band played as an encore during his "Dance Into the Light" tour, and the much-loved Fred Astaire/Frank Sinatra standard, "The Way You Look Tonight."

Phil even did a rendition of West Side Story's "Somewhere," Curtis Mayfield's "I've Been Trying," and a live, Roberta Flack-rearranged Irvin Berlin song, "Always."

The album also has "Tearing and Breaking," a nine-year-old song; "Everyday," with a slow, blue mood he wrote during emotional distress; "This Must Be Love," a '60s throwback to adolescent love; "Testify," a positive love song he wrote for his wife Orianne.

It is the ultimate album any Phil Collins fan will need to get through one, or a thousand, more nights, at the special double-disc price of P425 from Warner Music Philippines, at all leading music stores and record bars.

Superstars, funky art in 'Artist Collection'

BMG Records (Pilipinas) Inc. announces the release of the initial range of "The Artist Collection," single-artist compilation albums at mid-price.

"The Artist Collection" is a gallery featuring 10 albums from 10 superstars—Whitney Houston, Santana, Toni Braxton, Kenny G, Hall & Oates, Elvis Presley, Rick Astley, Luther Vandross, Run DMC and TLC. Each album features approximately 14 tracks.

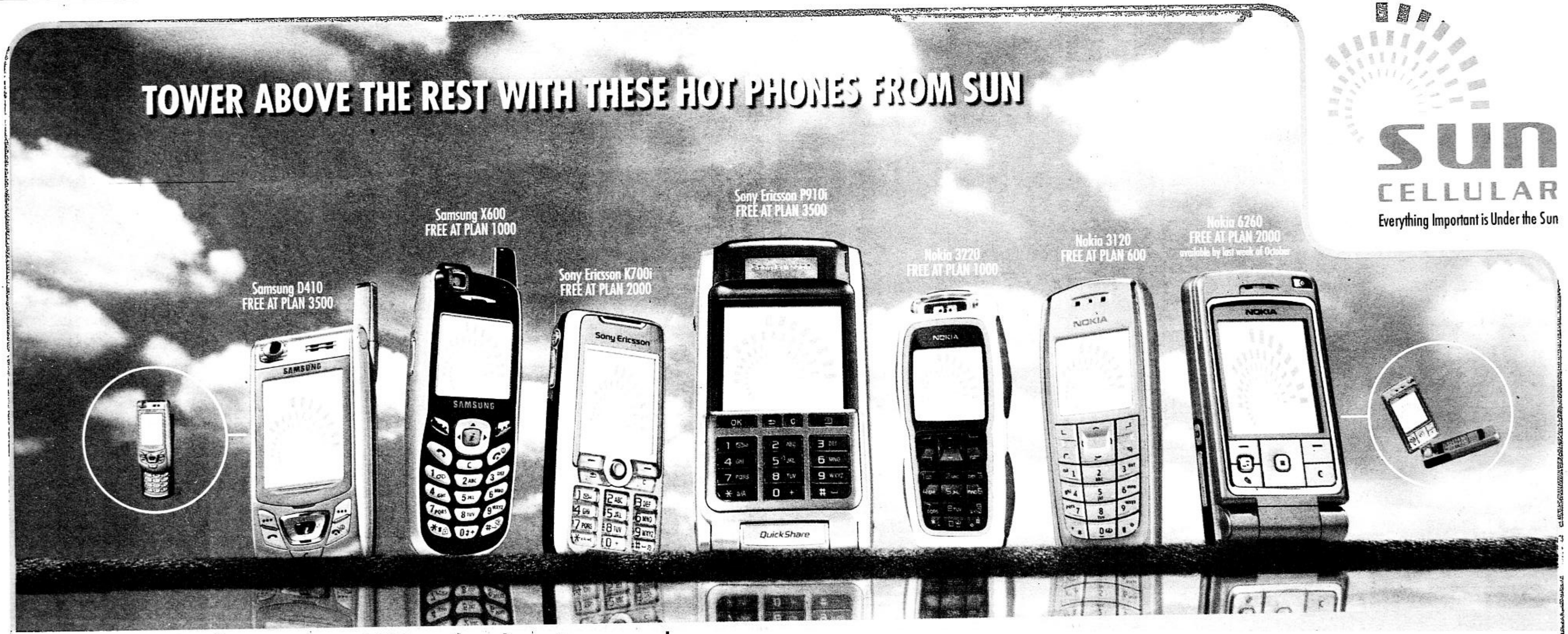
An exciting feature of the collection is the striking and funky artwork on the album covers, by world-renowned artist Hanoch Piven.

Another set is already being planned for next year.

For more information, visit http://www.artistcollection.org, ww.artistcollection.org.

"The Artist Collection" is now available at record stores nationwide—including Astro Plus, Music One, O Music, Tower Records, Radio City, Shoemart and Odyssey Record Stores—in CDs for only P280 each, from BMG Records (Pilipinas) Inc.

TOWER ABOVE THE REST WITH THESE HOT PHONES FROM SUN



sun CELLULAR

Everything Important is Under the Sun

Sun Cellular offers hot new phones FREE at plans that suit your needs.

Enjoy the hottest handsets in the market with Sun Cellular. Get phones with the latest technology like a built-in camera, video streaming capabilities, and Bluetooth connections FREE with Sun's postpaid plans, all made to suit your needs.

With Sun Cellular's 24/7 Call & Text Unlimited, get to call and text your friends and loved ones all you want, for as low as P250 a month on top of your Monthly Service Fee.

Switch to Sun Cellular now!

Plan	Nokia 2650	Nokia 3120	Nokia 3220	Nokia 6260	Nokia 6610i	Samsung D410	Samsung X600	Sony Ericsson K700i	Sony Ericsson P910i	LG B1300	Motorola C201	Sony Ericsson T100
250	P 4,000	P 4,500	P 9,000	P 19,000	P 9,500	P 22,700	P 10,500	P 19,500	P 36,000	Free	Free	Free
600	Free	Free	P 4,500	P 14,000	P 5,500	P 17,700	P 5,500	P 14,500	P 30,750	Free	Free	Free
1000	Free	Free	Free	P 8,000	Free	P 11,700	Free	P 8,500	P 25,000	Free	Free	Free
2000	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	P 2,000	Free	Free	P 15,200	Free	Free	Free
3500	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free

Minimum 24 months holding period.

Better Network. Better Value.

The Sun Shops : **Metro Manila** | Robinsons Galleria | Robinsons Metro East | Robinsons Place Cainta | Robinsons Place Manila | SM North Edsa | SM South Mall | SM City Fairview | SM Centerpoint | SM Megamall | SM City Manila | SM City Bicutan | Park Square One | Shangri-La Plaza Mall | Festival Mall Filinvest | Greenhills Shopping Center | **North Luzon** | Starmills Pampanga | Robinsons Angeles | SM Baguio | SM Marilao | **South Luzon** | Robinsons Imus | Robinsons Sta. Rosa | Robinsons Dasmariñas | Robinsons Lipa | SM Bacoor | **Visayas** | Robinsons Iloilo | Robinsons Place Bacolod | Robinsons Place Cebu | SM City Cebu | **Mindanao** | Robinsons Cagayan de Oro | SM City Davao | Gaisano Davao

For more details, contact our Hotline at (02) 395-8000 or visit our website at www.suncellular.com.ph

ACCENT-MICRO TECHNOLOGIES, INC.
www.amti.com.ph

DellOptiPlex
GX270
Relevant Technology That's Easy to Manage
Service: 687 4205-07 • Sales: 638 3563/ 687.1955-60 • info@amti.com.ph
Dell Top Channel Partner Award 1997
Dell Top Enterprise Sales Award 2003
DELL

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2004

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BUSINESS

E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inq7money.net

Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

Text us your feedback: inquirer biz name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

AcerPower S Series

• Intel® Pentium® 4 Processor 2.6GHz
• RedFlag Linux 3.2
• 40GB Hard Disk
• 52x CDRom Drive
Options: ▸128MB DDR---P 29,900.00 ▸256MB DDR---P 31,500.00
For inquiries, call: 815-3388
acer

Fitch spares RP from rating downgrade

By Doris C. Dumlao

LONDON-BASED credit rating agency Fitch Ratings has spared the Philippines from a debt-rating downgrade, but changed its outlook for the country to "negative" from "stable" due to heightened concerns on fiscal vulnerability.

Fitch Ratings yesterday maintained the Republic of the Philippines' long-term foreign currency and long-term local currency ratings of "BB" and "BB+" respectively, or two notches below investment grade, but revised its outlook to negative—which means a downgrade may still be possible in the near term.

"These come against a backdrop of sharply diminishing fiscal flexibility that leaves the public finances vulnerable to shocks, including from domestic interest rate increases, exchange rate pressures or contingent liabilities emanating from the wider public sector or from banking system weaknesses," Fitch Ratings said in its report.

Fitch Ratings gave the country three to six months to show some progress in the implementation of fiscal reforms, in line of what it believed to be an "opportune" stage in the political cycle.

"Sizeable front-loaded tax policy adjustments are needed to set public debt ratios on a firmly downward trend over the medium term," said Brian Coulton, senior director at Fitch Ratings' sovereigns group in Asia.

While giving the Philippines some breathing room at this time, Coulton warned that a "half-hearted tax policy effort" would not save the country from a credit downgrade in the near future.

"Unless the government debt burden falls significantly over the medium term, public finances will remain highly vulnerable to shocks," Coulton said.

"Increased concerns over the health of the banking sector, where balance sheets are weak and underlying profitability is poor, amplify these worries," he stressed.

Coulton added that with half of the public debt sourced abroad, any significant depreciation in peso value would considerably impinge on the government's balance sheet, placing a high premium on the maintenance of monetary stability.

Fitch Ratings' latest report sent a sigh of relief to the government's economic team, which was almost resigned to a credit-rating downgrade.

"We've been given time to deliver on our commitments, but if we don't, we'd be justifiably downgraded," Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said.

He noted that the Philippines could suffer as much as two notches of a credit rating downgrade, which would be disastrous to the country.

"We keep on talking about the cost of downgrade on our borrowings, but actually the bigger impact is on foreign direct investments and portfolio inflows," he said, noting a lot of pension funds like the California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS) tend to exclude from their radar screen countries which received credit rating downgrades.

Buenaventura said the Supreme Court's reversal of an earlier ruling on the Mining Act as well as the recent privatization of the Masinloc power plant contributed a lot in averting a downgrade for the Philippines.

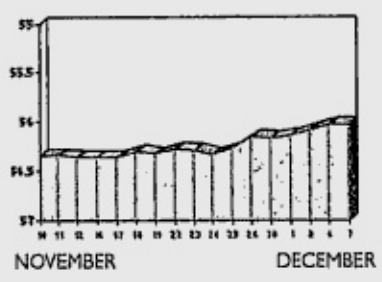
Fitch Ratings said that while the government's deficit had improved this year, the broader non-

FITCH/ B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE



₱ 56.025 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., Dec. 7, 2004

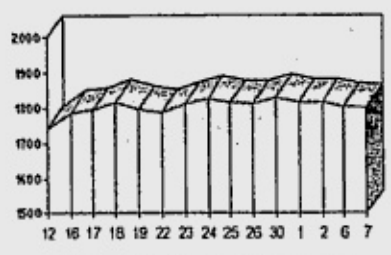
¥ 102.76 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., Dec. 7, 2004

GOLD: $ 450.00-450.50
per ounce Hong Kong, Dec. 6, 2004

STOCK MARKET

Stocks dip on planned telco taxes

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

STOCKS extended their decline yesterday, pulled lower by top phone firm PLDT and second-ranked Globe Telecom Inc. on concerns over the impact of planned tax rises on telecoms firms' earnings.

Globe Telecom, a unit of top conglomerate Ayala Corp. and Singapore Telecommunications, fell P10 or 1.02 percent to P970. Ayala dropped 10 centavos or 1.52 percent to P6.50.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT), a quarter owned by Hong Kong's First Pacific Co. Ltd., wiped out early gains when it announced it was paring debt at the parent level to about P2 billion this month.

PLDT, the most highly valued stock on the exchange with a market capitalization of $4 billion, finished P5 lower at P1,280.

"Part of the apprehension stems from ongoing deliberations on appropriate tax charges that will be levied for the sector," stock brokerage firm 2Trade Asia said in a client report.

A committee in Congress has shelved a proposal to tax the windfall profits of telecom firms and will instead deliberate to raise the 10-percent value-added tax to 12 percent.

ATR Kim Eng Securities analyst Martin Enrile said the tax could slow the double-digit profit growth enjoyed by PLDT and No. 2 firm Globe Telecom as a result of strong growth in mobile subscriber numbers.

STOCKS/ B8

US investors seek more investment perks

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE AMERICAN Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines has urged the government to further "sweeten" investment perks for investors due to tough competition from countries in Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe.

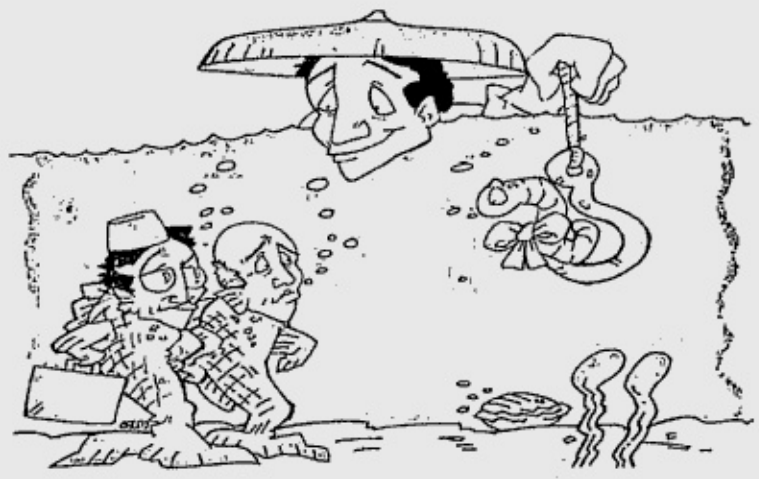
AmCham executive director Robert Sears said in a statement that other developing countries were offering lower investment costs in terms of wages, power, infrastructure and overall business climate.

"We believe the incentives offered by the Philippines must be considerably more attractive in order to encourage foreign investment," Sears said.

AmCham is recommending steps that were seen to generate more investments for the country, including:

- granting incentives to industries that develop agriculture and create jobs in the rural areas, as well as exporters of completely built vehicles;
- the reduction of tariff on imported building products and other raw materials, and the removal of value-added tax on

US INVESTORS/ B3



FREE GAS!
All the more reason to put the Optra on top of your Christmas List.

LOW DOWN
As low as ₱100,500 at 15% down for an Optra 1.6LS M/T

LOW MONTHLY
As low as ₱7,574 monthly at 50% down, 60 months to pay for an Optra 1.6LS M/T

FREE GAS*
• ₱15,000 worth of Caltex gas on Optra 1.8LT A/T
• ₱10,000 worth of Caltex gas on Optra 1.6LS M/T and A/T

TROUBLE-FREE OWNERSHIP
• Free parts and labor (Periodic Maintenance Service) for 2 years on both models
• 3 year or 100,000 km warranty

CHEVROLET OPTRA

Italian styling, British-tuned suspension, American-build quality. Free roadside assistance 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Customer Assistance Center 1800-1888-4646. Get the value-laden Optra at your GM Autoworld and Chevrolet dealer now.

For this holiday season only! Offer good for Optra 1.8 LT and Optra 1.6 LS, up to December 31, 2004*

You can also avail of the new Value Package Optra 1.6 L M/T for only ₱599,000. *(not included in free gas/financing promo)*

GM Autoworld MAKATI 2496 Don Chino Roces Ave., (formerly Pasong Tamo) Makati City Phones 867-8181 to 87 / 894-1976. Fax 894-5495 GM Autoworld QUEZON AVENUE 1731 Quezon Ave., Quezon City. Phones 374-1250 to 59 / 372-8001. Fax 372-8008 GM Autoworld SHAW 500 Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City. Phones 535-4944 / 533-8375 / 531-1263 / 531-6349. Fax 535-4935 / 535-4937 Chevrolet PASIG 92-102 E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue C5 Bo Ugong, Pasig City. Phones 672-1612 to 14 / 672-1485 to 86. Fax 672-1484 Chevrolet ALABANG Westgate, Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang Phones 771-1206 to 09. Fax 771-1210 Chevrolet NORTH EDSA 1029 Edsa, Quezon City Phones 374-9992 to 97. Fax 374-9963 Chevrolet PAMPANGA San Fernando - Olongapo Highway, City of San Fernando, Pampanga. Phone (045) 963-3333 GM Autoworld CEBU Gov. Cuenco Ave., Cebu City. Phone (032) 234-0426. Fax (032) 231-7760 Chevrolet DAVAO Km. 7, J.P. Laurel Avenue, Lanang, Davao City. Phones (082) 300-7777 / (082) 235-3811 / 13. Fax (082) 305-7777
www.generalmotors.com.ph

Free gas offer is not convertible to cash. Financing is good for Optra 1.6 LS M/T and A/T only. All plans subject to BPI Family Bank Approval. Promo extended until December 31, 2004. *Approved by DTI-NCR. Per DTI-NCR Permit no 1839 series of 2004

I am CHEVROLET

Another reason to choose a Chevrolet Optra-
2 years free parts and labor.

• Free 3 Air Filters • Free 6 Pollen Filters • Free Labor
• Free 6 Oil Filters • Free 12 Spark Plugs • Free Air Cleaner
• Free 3 Fuel Filters • Free Front brake Pads • Free 24 liters AC Delco Engine Oil

*Based on replacement schedule as specified by RMS program

Enjoy free periodic maintenance for two years or up to 30,000 kilometers whichever comes first. See your Chevrolet dealer for details.

FREE ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. (045) 887 4646 or (0922) 887 4646

CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE CENTER 1800-1888-4646

Free periodic maintenance also offered with the Chevrolet Aveo.

3 YEAR WARRANTY

www.generalmotors.com.ph

Belle revives mining joint venture with Benguet Corp.

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

REAL ESTATE developer Belle Corp. is reviving its mining interests, encouraged by the Supreme Court's recent ruling that opened the mining industry to foreign investors and the better gold and mineral prices in the world market.

Belle vice chair Willy Ocier said in an interview that Belle would revisit its joint-venture project with Benguet Corp. that was suspended sometime in the late 1990s due to low gold prices, which did not make it cost-effective to operate a mine.

"Now with gold at $450 per ounce compared to below $200 per ounce in 1992, we are studying to pre-operate the mine. This was accelerated by the Supreme Court decision," Ocier said.

The Supreme Court last week overturned its previous ruling that prevented foreign companies to own 100 percent in mining projects. Mining officials last week said revenues from mining may pitch in in cutting the budget deficit.

Belle owns seven mining claims in Antamok, Itogon, Benguet, north of the Antamok Mines of Benguet Corp.

In 1992, Belle signed a royalty agreement with Benguet Corp. with Benguet managing and operating the mine and undertaking exploration and development work.

The project was later temporarily suspended and had remained so to date.

At the time of the suspension, about 20 veins or mineralized zones or structures have been identified. One of the veins yields an average of 1.6 to 2.5 grams of gold per metric ton.

Ocier said it has yet to be determined when both companies would open the mine.

Belle earlier said its net earnings from January to September declined 61 percent to P84.8 million from P219.8 million during the same period last year on higher expenses despite an increase in profits.

The company said the higher net income in 2003 was due to gains from debt settlement that amounted to P446.4 million. Without the debt settlement, last year's nine-month financial report would have recorded a net loss of P233.5 million.

Net revenues from sales of real estate and club shares for the nine-month period increased by 55 percent to P327.4 million from P210.7 million. Gross profit likewise soared 99 percent to P230.5 million from P115.9 million during the respective periods.

The bulk of the sales revenues were from Phase 1 of its farm lots subdivision project, Plantation Hills in Batangas, launched last year. Roughly 80 percent of the project has been built.

Benguet Corp., on the other hand, is engaged in gold mining. It first expanded into chromite production in 1934 and into copper production in 1971. The company's gold mining operations are in Benguet Province and the chromite mining operation in Masinloc, Zambales. From 1980 to 1997, the company conducted copper mining operations in San Marcelino, Zambales. From 1988 through 1993, it also conducted gold mining operations in Jose Panganiban, Camarines Norte.

Aside from its core business of mining and mineral exploration, the company and its subsidiaries are actively engaged in water projects, real estate development, forest management and eco-tourism, while maintaining interests in allied industries such as steel casting, trucking and warehousing, trading, engineering and construction services.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of December 7, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank, Inc.	2.9	3	2.9	3	180,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	23.5	24	23.5	24	2,579,800
Bank of the Phil. Islands	50	51.5	50	51	3,257,700
China Banking Corp.	600	600	600	600	730
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	50.5	50.5	50	50	264,000
Export and Ind. Bank Inc	0.48	0.48	0.46	0.46	680,000
International Exch. Bank	16.25	16.75	16.25	16.5	1,718,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	28	28.5	27.5	27.5	284,000
Phil. Savings Bank	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	10,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13	13.25	13	13.25	5,200
Security Bank Corp.	27.5	29.5	27.5	29	295,800
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	2485	2490	2485	2485	640
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	171,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1835	1840	1835	1840	1,220
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	18.75	19	18.75	18.75	62,800
Digital Telecom Phils Inc	1.8	1.86	1.78	1.84	5,286,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	975	975	960	970	63,180
Ipeople Inc.	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	31,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.043	500,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.034	0.034	0.034	0.034	200,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	20,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.44	2.55	2.44	2.5	2,564,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.33	120,000
Transpacific Broadcast	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	15,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1295	1295	1275	1280	266,040
Ivantage Corp.	0.72	0.75	0.72	0.73	4,840,000
Philweb Corp.	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.012	55,500,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	16.5	16.5	16.25	16.5	40,300
Manila Electric Co. B	27	27	26.5	26.5	1,242,200
Petron Corporation	3.25	3.25	3.2	3.2	7,793,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	64,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.48	1.48	1.42	1.42	42,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.8	782,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.12	1.16	1.12	1.16	76,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.37	0.37	820,000
Union Cement Corp.	2	2.06	1.88	2.06	3,421,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	32	32	31.5	31.5	321,200
Jollibee Foods Corp.	28.5	28.5	28	28	189,600
San Miguel Corp. A	56.5	57	56.5	57	155,600
San Miguel Corp. B	74.5	75	74.5	75	386,700
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	36,000,000
Ayala Corp.	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.5	3,814,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.25	3.3	3.25	3.3	150,000
Alliance Global Group Inc	10.75	10.75	10.5	10.5	1,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.023	0.024	0.023	0.024	3,000,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.66	1.7	1.66	1.7	329,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.008	0.0075	0.008	93,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	50,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	15,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp	1.06	1.1	1.06	1.1	30,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.81	0.81	0.8	0.8	30,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	16	16	16	16	8,800
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.72	0.72	0.71	0.71	8,160,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.155	0.155	0.15	0.15	500,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.235	2,240,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.8	3.85	3.8	3.85	1,163,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.029	1,700,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp	5.2	5.3	5.1	5.2	1,980,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp	31.5	32	31.5	32	1,172,800
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	100,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	1,000,000
Ionics Inc.	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.52	679,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	440,000
Keppel Holdings B	1.16	1.2	1.16	1.2	660,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.54	1.76	1.52	1.74	4,753,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	2,820,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	100,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.4	0.41	0.39	0.39	26,930,000
Polar Property Holdings	2	2	2	2	16,000
Prime Origin Phils. Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	900,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	100,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.39	0.4	0.38	0.4	560,000
South China Resources Inc	0.3	0.32	0.3	0.32	100,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	30,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	15,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	510,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	870,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Semiconductors Corp	1.56	1.56	1.52	1.52	130,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0575	0.0575	0.0575	0.0575	3,000,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.6	0.62	0.6	0.61	3,370,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.96	1.04	0.95	0.95	5,380,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.66	0.67	0.63	0.65	1,530,000
Manila Jockey Club	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	1,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	18.75	18.75	18.5	18.5	279,800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series N	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series O	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	700
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	7.8	7.8	7.6	7.6	20,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7	7	6.8	6.9	9,875,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	120,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	710,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28	2,020,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.165	0.165	0.15	0.155	6,510,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	50,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.33	3,870,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	490,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.17	0.17	0.16	0.17	3,630,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	330,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	11,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.22	0.22	0.2	0.22	3,080,000
SM Development Corp.	1.42	1.48	1.42	1.48	1,872,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.5	7.6	7.5	7.5	15,441,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.42	0.42	0.39	0.39	200,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc B	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	50,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.013	0.014	0.013	0.014	79,600,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	3.85	3.9	3.8	3.8	491,000
Benguet Corp. A	2.4	3.1	2.4	2.8	303,000
Benguet Corp. B	6	6	6	6	6,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	2.5	3.3	2.5	3.1	145,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.28	0.3	0.28	0.29	70,350,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.39	0.43	0.38	0.41	129,090,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.021	0.021	0.02	0.02	780,800,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.028	0.029	0.028	0.029	215,800,000
Omico Corporation	0.005	0.0055	0.005	0.005	29,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.61	0.61	0.58	0.58	4,040,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.71	0.72	0.69	0.7	10,250,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.185	0.22	0.185	0.205	5,780,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.01	0.011	0.01	0.011	13,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	6,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.005	0.005	0.0048	0.0048	126,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0055	0.0055	0.005	0.005	16,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	420,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	10,000
Pacifica	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	15,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.5	2.55	2.5	2.55	29,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.033	0.033	0.033	0.033	3,000,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	200,000

Fitch spares RP . . . From page B1

financial public sector deficit was expected to remain with a historically high deficit of 6.3 percent of gross domestic product, reflecting the financial woes of the cash-strapped National Power Corp.

It noted that the government's debt hit 78 percent of GDP at end-2003 from 66 percent at end-2001 and was expected to rise further to 82 percent this year with the transfer of debts from Napocor.

The country's current non-investment grade debt rating means the issuer has a "substantial" credit risk, particularly as a result of adverse economic change over time, but business or financial alternatives may be available to allow financial commitments to be met.

"The intensifying burden of servicing this debt is reflected in the ratio of interest to total expenditure, which is set to reach 32 percent in 2005, placing strains on expenditure management and exceeded in only a few low-rated sovereigns, including Lebanon and Turkey," it noted.

CURRENCIES

December 7, 2004 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.745879	1.000000	56.0260
Japan	Yen	0.007229	0.009692	0.5430
United Kingdom	Pound	1.446110	1.938800	108.6232
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.096001	0.128708	7.2110
Switzerland	Franc	0.653764	0.876501	49.1068
Canada	Dollar	0.621514	0.833264	46.6844
Singapore	Dollar	0.455054	0.610091	34.1810
Australia	Dollar	0.577842	0.774713	43.4041
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.978564	2.652661	148.6180
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.198901	0.266667	14.9403
Brunei	Dollar	0.453670	0.608236	34.0770
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000082	0.000110	0.0062
Thailand	Baht	0.019068	0.025564	1.4322
United Arab Emirates	Dirham	0.203104	0.272301	15.2559
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.340700	75.1141
Argentina	Peso	0.249667	0.334728	18.7535
Brazil	Real	0.274119	0.367512	20.5902
Denmark	Kroner	0.134640	0.180512	10.1134
India	Rupee	0.017139	0.022978	1.2874
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.196310	0.263193	14.7457
Mexico	New Peso	0.066880	0.089666	5.0236
New Zealand	Dollar	0.537106	0.720098	40.3442
Norway	Kroner	0.122821	0.164666	9.2256
Pakistan	Rupee	0.012542	0.016815	0.9421
South Africa	Rand	0.130627	0.175131	9.8119
Korea	Won	0.000718	0.000962	0.0539
Sweden	Kroner	0.112455	0.150768	8.4469
Syria	Pound	0.014369	0.019264	1.0793
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023294	0.031230	1.7497
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000389	0.000522	0.0292

intimus
PAPER SHREDDERS
KEEP YOUR SECRETS, SECRET!
PAPER MONSTER 6 mm Stripcut ₱3,500
155 4 mm Stripcut ₱8,950
SIMPLEX SE 1.9 mm & 3.8 mm Stripcut ₱21,950
502 MHS 0.8 x 12 mm Crosscut ₱68,950
280 4 x 28 mm Crosscut ₱18,950
OTHER MODELS ALSO AVAILABLE
A VITAL PART OF YOUR SECURITY.
Highly RECOMMENDED by World Wildlife Fund Organization
www.elitemachinesinc.com
Elite Machines Inc
Elite Building, 20 Aranaza Ave. Ext., Quezon City
Rm. 301 Pacific Bldg., 168 Quintin Paredes corner Gandara Sts., Binondo, Manila
Espiritu Building, 33 Gen. Maxilom Ave. Cebu City
EURO-ASIA OFFICE MACHINES (PHIL.) GOLDSTAR
GF, LRDC Building, 22 Sen. Gil. Puyat Ave., Makati City
Tel. Nos. 8877238 / 56 / 68 / 80 / 95 / 96 & 8880698
Tan Building, Tomas Saco cor. 1st Street, Bacolod City, Negros Occ.
Door 2, Lua Bldg., Quirino Ave. cor. J.P. Laurel St., Davao City

Introducing
WRIST BP MONITOR
"TRAVEL MATE" WRIST BP
• Handy and Portable
• 100% Accurate
• Ideal for travel
• 2 pcs. "AAA" Batteries
Give health this Christmas!
FAR EAST MEDICAL EQUIPMENT
STAR MILLS PAMPANGA 2nd Floor (45) 598 3513
SM MANILA 5th Floor 654-1471
SM MEGAMALL 5th Flr., bldg A 635-0436
SM FAIRVIEW Basement 216 7540
SM NORTH EDSA Car Park Phase 4 (2) 3326
SM SOUTHMALL Basement 1 802 1565
ROBINSONS GALLERIA Basement 1 635 3061
CEBU 417-8286

PHARMACOECONOMICS
means
HIGH QUALITY AND AFFORDABILITY
Check with your doctor about PHARMACOECONOMIC Cardiovascular drugs.
For more information:
PHARMACOECONOMICS
CALL 1-800-10-6-HEALTH OR CALL 637-4890
(FREE OF CHARGE) 432584

Tallest condo coming

THE KUOKS of Shangri-La fame are building not one but two of the country's tallest residential condominiums.

At 60 floors each, the twin condos will eclipse the country's current tallest building, the 55-story PBCom Tower on Ayala Avenue.

The planned high-rises will be built on what is now the open car park beside the Edsa Plaza mall, across from the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, according to a company statement. The twin towers will be linked by a common podium.

The twin Pacific Plaza Towers, in contrast, stand 52 and 53 floors tall, while the twin Essensa towers are both 30-stories tall.

The One Roxas Triangle beside the Mandarin, a joint venture of the Ayalas and Hongkong Land, is, at 51, a story shorter than the planned Ortigas condos.

Shangri-La, incidentally, shelved the Ortigas project in the wake of the 1997 currency crisis, and decided to just continue the 46-story Shang Grand Tower in Makati's Legaspi Village, its first venture into the local residential condominium market.

The "seven-star" Shang Grand Tower is scheduled for completion by end-2005.

Hilux targets D-Max

JUBILANT after ending Isuzu's two-decade reign in the pick-up and light commercial vehicles reign in Thailand, Toyota has now opened a Philippine front to specifically dethrone Isuzu's D-Max as the country's top-selling pick-up with the introduction of Toyota's all-new Hilux.

Saying Hilux's cellar-dwelling years was "a thing of the past," Toyota Motors Philippines president Nobuharu Tabata promised the press and the industry "a new vigor" in the one-ton pick-up battle, where D-Max and Nissan Frontier currently hold a 48- and 21-percent market share, respectively.

Even relative newcomer Ford Ranger has locally squeaked past the Hilux, despite the latter being a favored transport of Bin Laden and other Afghan warlords for its rugged reliability.

As if to underline that Toyota means business, Hilux even undercut D-Max by pricing its top-end 4x4 variant at P1.305 million against Isuzu's P1.39 million.

The undercutting extends all the way to the entry-level model, with Hilux at P748,000 against D-Max's P960,000.

To those who have not seen it yet, the new Hilux has the macho looks of a Ford F150 minus the gas pain, the Japanese pick-up being powered by the latest common rail diesel engine.

We will leave the motoring review to our automotive colleagues, except to say that if you woke up and found yourself inside the new Hilux, you would have thought you were inside a car, with its industry-leading rear-leg room space and numerous bottle holders.

Even the so-called NVH (noise, vibration, harshness) level approximates that of a car's, not that of a rice or palay and commodities hauler.

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

CAP-itol defense

CONGRESSIONAL allies of the ailing College Assurance Plan managed to turn a House hearing Monday to grill not CAP but the Securities and Exchange Commission itself for its tough regulatory stance.

According to an eyewitness, Representatives Jacinto Paras, Prospero Pichay Jr., Eduardo Zialcita, Gilbert Cesar Remulla and Harlin Abayon even managed to waste nearly one and a half hours with procedural questions and housekeeping inquiries before the team went on a full-court press to turn the heat on SEC Chair Fe Barin.

The one simple question that started the inquiry, that of Rep. Eulogio Magsaysay's, on how much cash and near-cash CAP still has to pay in maturing tuition fee obligations, remained unanswered.

The circus will continue on Tuesday.

Heard through the grapevine

AMBASSADOR to Washington Albert del Rosario has approved a plan to issue identity cards to 'TNT' (*tago ng tago*) Filipinos in America, just like what the Mexican Embassy did to its millions of citizens illegally staying in the United States.

The embassy-issued ID cards are acceptable as legal identification required by US banks, which the illegal residents can use to open personal bank accounts and even send money back home.

It is also, at $25 each, a good revenue-raising measure for the cash-strapped consulates.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com)

INDIA'S GOLDEN TRIANGLE TOUR
DELHI • AGRA • JAIPUR
7 DAYS / 6 NIGHTS
TWIN / TRIPLE SHARE - USD 1,179 UP TO US 1,485
SINGLE ROOM SUPP - USD 270 UP TO USD 470
Prices per person: valid till April 2005 (except 22 Dec 04 - 04 Jan 05)
TRIPLE EIGHT INT'L. TRAVEL & TOURS, INC. (formerly Jarcen Travel & Tours Inc.) IATA
G/F Aguirre Building, 812 A. Arnaiz Ave., San Lorenzo Village, Makati City 1223
Tel Nos. 892 - 8631 to 36
Fax: 819 - 5521 / 819 - 5521
Email: jarcentravel@yahoo.com
FOR RESERVATIONS: CALL 0920 - 9103350

PSBank Prime TIME DEPOSIT
✓ 9% interest p.a. - GUARANTEED
✓ No withholding tax
✓ Only P50,000 minimum deposit
✓ 5 - year Time Deposit
✓ Monthly crediting of interest
Visit any of our 121 PSBank branches nationwide.
BancNet Member of the PDIC. Maximum Deposit Insurance for each Depositor P250,000.00
Quoted rate is for a limited time only and is subject to change without prior notice.

NEGOSYONG foodcart FRANCHISE 10T
Start Your Own Business!
Open to Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao Applicants
OSCAR SQUIDBALLS
POTATO KING FRENCH FRIES
SUZUKI SON TOKYO MEALS
RICEBOX BUSOG MEALS
FRUIT SHAKES
SNOW CONE
WAFFLE WRAPPS
WOW SORBETES SOFT ICE CREAM
OTHER FRANCHISE :
Bacolod Chicken Inasal • Q-Grill Haus • Sinugba • Pares Pares • Tapsilogan • Tacos • Inday Sizzling Balot Balot • Copy Center • Medusa Foot Spa • Lumpia Corner • Uncle Bob's Hotdog • Rice Toppings Bong's La Paz Batchoy • Chicking Corner • Scooping Station • Rice Toppings and Many More!!!
• HIGH PROFIT • EASY TO OPERATE • TRAINING OF PERSONNEL • STRONG MARKETING SUPPORT • FAST RETURN OF INVESTMENT
FRAN.CON, Inc. FRANCHISE AND MARKETING CONSULTANCY SINCE 1996
21/F Unit 2109 Antel Global Corp. Ctr., J. Vargas Ave. cor. Meralco Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City
637-2309 • 637-2316 • 637-2393

SM leases Fil-Esate land in Laguna

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

FIL-ESTATE Properties Inc. has agreed to lease a 5.8-hectare property in San Pablo City, Laguna, to mall developer SM Prime Holdings Inc., which is developing the site for a mixed-use commercial mall.

Fepi, a wholly owned subsidiary of Fil-Estate Land. Inc., and its partner Holmsdale Realty and Development Corp., signed a 25-year lease contract with listed firm SM Prime, the group that has developed 19 malls nationwide to date.

The leased land is in front of a residential subdivision project of Fepi in San Pablo City dubbed as Riverina. The lease is renewable for another 25 years from October 2029, according to Roberto Roco, Fil-Estate corporate information officer.

SM Prime earlier said its net earnings from July to September grew 11 percent to P1.14 billion from last year's P1.03 billion, driven by higher revenues.

Gross revenues increased 20 percent to P2.51 billion in the third quarter from P2.09 billion in the same period last year.

For the nine-month period, net earnings climbed 10 percent to P3.37 billion from P3.07 billion. Gross revenues jumped 16 percent to P7.44 billion from January to September. It opened three additional SM Supermalls last year—SM City Lucena, SM City Baguio and SM City Dasmariñas in Cavite.

SMPH has also set aside P5 billion for capital spending next year. Construction is ongoing on SM Mall of Asia, touted to be the country's largest mall along Roxas Boulevard. The first phase of the mall will open next year with a gross floor area of 300,000 square meters. This consists of the main mall, an entertainment mall and two parking buildings. Also set to open next year are SM City San Lazaro in Manila, and SM City Molino in Cavite.

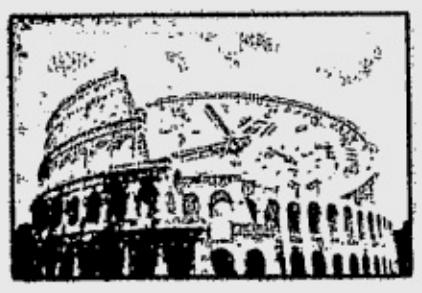
US . . .

From page B1

durable goods;

- income tax holidays of 8-10 years for the manufacturing of durable goods and training expense incentives for new investors;
- granting of pre-feasibility financial grants, especially for information technology-enabled services, and
- a law that would make possible an easy entry to and exit from the country for foreign executives and technical employees, including the suspension of travel tax.

The group added that foreign investors would be encouraged to do business here if there were grants of a 12-year tax holiday for IT manufacturing; special incentives for IT-support industries; incentives to such firms for training provided to employees, and new perks for "legacy firms" who continue to invest in the country.

Reflecting on Time
Colosseum

Inspired by 2000 years of history,
Mido All Dial

All Dial Chronometer
Mido
SWISS WATCHES SINCE 1918
Available at
MONTRE | 101 THE PODIUM
Doña Julia Vargas cor ADB Avenue,
Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City / (632) 687-3077
www.timeline.com.ph
Also Available at NoCurfew stores
Shangri-La Plaza Mall (02) 634-2160 • SM City Pampanga (045) 963-3721
SM City Cagayan de Oro (088) 859-1193
SM City Davao (082) 297-3588

IBM recommends Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional for Business.
intel inside pentium 4

IBM ThinkCentre S50
Our smallest desktop
Distinctive IBM Innovations:
• Rescue and Recovery™
- Push-of-a-button data back up and recovery
System Features:
• Intel® Pentium® 4 Processor 530 with HT Technology
- Processor speed 3.0GHz
800MHz FSB
• Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional
• 256MB DDR PC2700
• 40GB hard drive
• 24x CD-ROM Gigabit Ethernet
3/1/1 parts, labor, on-site warranty
• 17" CRT Monitor
NavCode 806629A
PhP53,895.00†
At just PhP53,895†, this desktop can save your data. Maybe you've had a virus attack. Or a software installation failure. Or your operating system's been corrupted. At the push of a button on any IBM ThinkCentre desktop, a "toolkit" with system information, diagnostics and recovery options comes to rescue your saved data. Just sit back and follow along. And with a LAN connection, only a ThinkCentre desktop lets you get help via the Web even when your operating system's down. The IBM ThinkCentre desktops with Intel® Pentium® 4 Processors. Work with a feeling of confidence. Instead of that sinking feeling. And see how it feels to save some money. And a tidy sum of money.
Rescue and Recovery.
Only on a ThinkCentre.
IBM ThinkCentre A50
System Features:
• Intel® Celeron® Processor 2.53GHz
533 MHz FSB
• Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional
256MB DDR PC2700
• 40GB hard drive
CD-ROM, Ethernet LAN
3/1/1 parts, labor, on-site warranty
• 17" CRT Monitor
PhP40,550.00† NavCode 817SLAB
IBM ThinkCentre A50
System Features:
• Intel® Pentium® 4 Processor 2.8GHz
400 MHz FSB
• Disk Operating System
• 128MB DDR PC2700
• CD-ROM, Ethernet LAN
• 40GB hard drive
• Ethernet LAN
• 3/1/1 parts, labor, on-site warranty
• 17" CRT Monitor
PhP38,695.00† NavCode 817S10A
IBM ThinkCentre A50
System Features:
Intel® Pentium® 4 Processor 2.8GHz
400MHz FSB
• Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional
• 256MB DDR PC2700
• 40GB hard drive
• CD-ROM, Ethernet LAN
• 3/1/1 parts, labor, on-site warranty
17" CRT Monitor
NavCode 817S13A
PhP47,995.00†
995-2426 | 1-800-1888-1426 | direct@ph.ibm.com
for more information
Monday to Saturday 9am – 6pm and Sunday 9am – 3pm
IBM Partners ABC Computers Co. Inc. • Accent Micro Products Inc • Advance Solutions, Inc • ATP Peripherals Phils. Inc • Asia International Inc • Columbia Technologies, Inc • Eco I.T. Solutions Corporation • Electroworld Office Systems • Information Products Corporation • MG Business Systems, Inc • Micro Image Company, Ltd • Micro Pacific Technologies & Systems Corporation • Microwise Inc • Microwork Corporation • Microphase Enterprise Company • Neologue Technologies, Inc • PC Mall Computer • Productivity Tech Services, Inc • Questronix Corporation • Silicon Valley Computer Center • Systems & Plus Integrator & Dist Company • Valuetone Systems & Solutions Corporation • Wilmax Computer Systems, Inc. • Virtuality Information Technology Systems • Zensian Systems Corporation
*While stocks Last. IBM reserves the right to change specifications or other product information without notice. This publication may include technical inaccuracies or typographical errors. IBM product names are trademarks of International Business Machines Corporation. ©2004 IBM Corp. All rights reserved. Microsoft® and Windows® are registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation. Certain Microsoft® software product(s) included with this computer may use technological measures for copy protection. IN SUCH EVENT, YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO USE THE PRODUCT IF YOU DO NOT FULLY COMPLY WITH THE PRODUCT ACTIVATION PROCEDURES. Product activation procedures and Microsoft's privacy policy will be detailed during initial launch of the product, or upon certain installations to the software product(s) or reconfiguration of the computer, and may be completed by Internet or telephone (toll charges may apply). Intel, Intel Inside, Intel Inside logo, Intel Pentium, Intel Pentium logo, and Intel Celeron are trademarks or registered trademarks of Intel Corporation or its subsidiaries in the United States and other countries. All rights reserved
IBM.

That the public may know

THE TRUTH ABOUT ILLEGAL VERSUS LEGITIMATE LOGGING

And why legitimate logging must continue for the good of our country

We condole with the families of those affected by the recent tragedies caused by unusually heavy rainfall brought by typhoons Winnie and Yoyong, aggravated by forest denudation caused by illegal logging and kaingin farming. For the sake of transparency, fairness and justice, PWPA has organized its own independent fact-finding group to get to the bottom of the tragedy and destruction, and if necessary, assist in prosecuting the guilty parties.

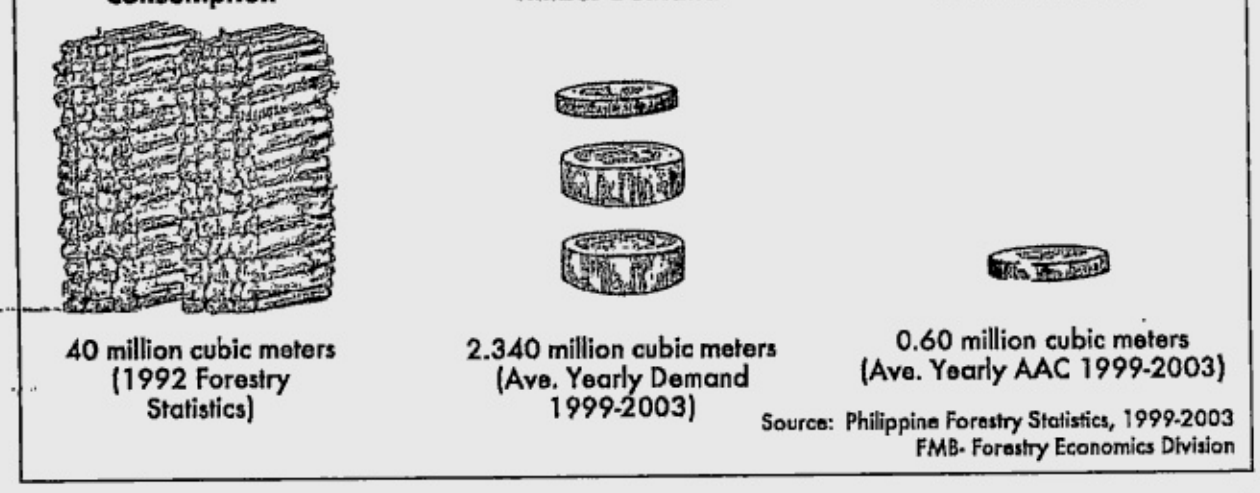
PWPA, however, calls for sobriety and objectivity, so that the legitimate and beneficial side of logging is not lumped with what's illegal and destructive.

COMPARE THESE FACTS AND JUDGE FOR YOURSELF

ILLEGAL LOGGING VS. LEGITIMATE LOGGING

- Cutting or burning of young trees by firewood gatherers and charcoal makers, illegal loggers and poachers who sell these trees to small unlicensed sawmills and burning of young forests by slash and burn farmers
- No reforestation or replanting of trees by illegitimate players. They just move on to the next forested areas to repeat their illegal activities. Kaingineros plant subsistence crops which can never substitute for trees in preventing soil erosion or landslides.

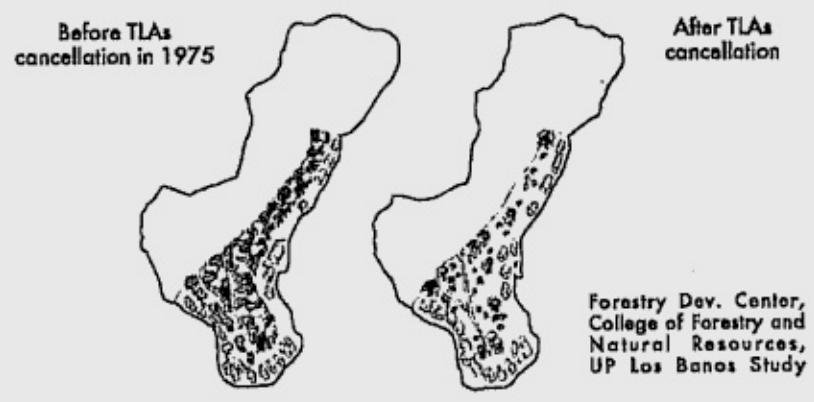
Commercial and Fuel Wood Demand / Consumption



Source: Philippine Forestry Statistics, 1999-2003
FMB- Forestry Economics Division

- Forests in areas without TLAs and IFMAs continue to be denuded at a very fast rate because they fall prey to poachers and kaingineros

Log Ban Experience, Negros Oriental



- Recent Inquirer report: Gen. Nakar Mayor Hernando Avellaneda admitted that "almost 40% of his constituents depend on illegal logging for a living... that the government could only do so much to provide people with honest jobs."
- A recent report quoting motorists: "Disaster-hit Real was lined with furniture shops offering custom-built tables, lounge chairs and benches made of tropical hard wood cut by nearby unlicensed mini sawmills."
- DENR records reveal the extent of illegal logging and mini-sawmill operations in the coastal towns of Quezon and Aurora and its role in the recent calamity.
- 1/3 of the country's population has already encroached on forest zones.

- Illegal logging has no official mandate, that's why it is illegal.

A TOTAL LOG BAN WILL PROVE MORE DISASTROUS TO OUR NATION.

Consider • Of the 32 TLAs cancelled from 1985-87, 25 areas became "open city" and were destroyed by illegal loggers, fuel wood gatherers and kaingineros; while only 7, due to inaccessibility, had remaining forest cover. • Before the TLA cancellation, only mature trees were harvested, forest cover maintained.

Legitimate Logging Involves Tree Replanting and Protection of Concession Areas

- Harvesting of only mature trees, in accordance with government regulations, are processed by legitimate wood processing mills; young trees are left to grow for the next harvest.
- Timber License Agreement (TLA) and Industrial Forest Management Agreement (IFMA) permit holders don't cut young trees not only because they are not permitted by regulations but because they are uneconomical in terms of transport, wood recovery and processing efficiency.
- Replanting of new trees to replace those which have been cut.
- Guarding of forest concessions against poachers and illegal loggers.
- Invest heavily in harvesting and wood processing facilities and infrastructure (likewise being used by local communities) and in new forest plantation to ensure the continuous supply of forest products.

Legitimate Logging Ensures Forest Sustainability

- Companies with TLAs have been operating in the last 50 years and are now in their second growth forests which proves that forests can be managed and developed on a sustainable basis.

- Example of a typical legitimate logging operation: Surigao Development Corporation (SUDECOR). Hailed recently by forestry experts of the International Timber Trade Organization (ITTO) for its scientific and responsible logging operation— a boon to the locale's biodiversity. SUDECOR is just one of the country's well-managed logging operations, with their thick and well-protected forests.

EFFECTS OF LOGGING BAN ON FOREST DENUDATION

Before TLA Cancellation:
Only mature trees harvested, forest cover maintained

32 TLAs Studied by UPLB

After TLA Cancellation:
- Completely destroyed by illegal loggers, fuel wood gatherers, kaingineros
- Had remaining cover but only because of inaccessibility

Legitimate Logging Has Government Mandate

- Timber License Agreement (TLA) Or Industrial Forest Management Agreement (IFMA) awarded by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). Patterned after those of developed countries with their own commercial logging operations in State forestlands.

PHILIPPINE WOOD PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

We Plant Trees for the Future

DO NOT BE OVERTAKEN BY EMOTIONALISM AND GENERALIZATIONS. ILLEGAL LOGGING MUST BE TREATED AS SUCH AND MUST BE SANCTIONED WITH THE FULL FORCE OF THE LAW. LEGITIMATE LOGGING IS THE ANTIDOTE TO FOREST DEGRADATION AND MUST BE SUPPORTED BY ALL.

PLDT seeks to retire $450M in debt in '04

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. yesterday said it would cut its debt by about $106 million this month to bring down its fixed-line obligation to about $2 billion by yearend.

The telecom giant said it would prepay on Dec. 20 part of a $145-million borrowing scheduled to mature in two years to save on interests, speed up its debt reduction strategy, and minimize currency risks.

PLDT this year hopes to shave off $350 million in outstanding obligations. The plan to prepay debt would bring to $450 million the total debts retired in 2004.

"By the end of the year, PLDT's fixed line debt balance would be about $2 billion, on track to achieve our target to reduce our debt balance to below $1.5 billion by the end of 2006," PLDT president Napoleon Nazareno said in a statement.

Of the PLDT Group's $2.99 billion debt, $2.2 billion are owed by the fixed-line business. Wireless subsidiaries Smart Communications Inc. and Pilipino Telephone Corp. have a combined obligation of $718 million.

PLDT said that in the next two weeks, it would prepay part of the $145-million debt facility—35 million US dollars and 7.276 billion Japanese yen—signed in Sept. 2002.

The funds were drawn in June and December 2003 to refinance some of PLDT's maturing obligations last year. Interest on the loan was pegged at six-month London Interbank Rate plus 3.85 points for yen and plus 3.65 points for the dollar.

"We consider our efforts to accelerate our debt reduction program to be a prudent move that would not only generate interest savings but also improve our balance sheet profile and mitigate our risks exposure," Nazareno said.

During a period of foreign exchange volatility, companies with huge dollar exposure like PLDT tend to incur forex losses. This year, the telecom giant said it would likely book a P2-billion exchange loss out of its total "unhedged" debt.

The country's most profitable firm with a record net income of P20 billion in the first nine months is targeting to end the year with P24 billion in profits.

PLDT chair Manuel Pangilinan said the company's profit target this year would not be affected by the foreign exchange losses that may arise from the adoption of new international accounting standards.

Annabelle Chua, PLDT senior vice president and treasurer, also said this would not affect the company's bottomline.

"It would be PNL (Profit and Loss Statement) neutral," Chua said. "We are required to book the losses each year depending on how the foreign exchange moved. Losses on previous years would be charged to the balance sheet."

Chua said the exchange rate was not very volatile this year compared to previous years. The peso had averaged at about P56 to a dollar.

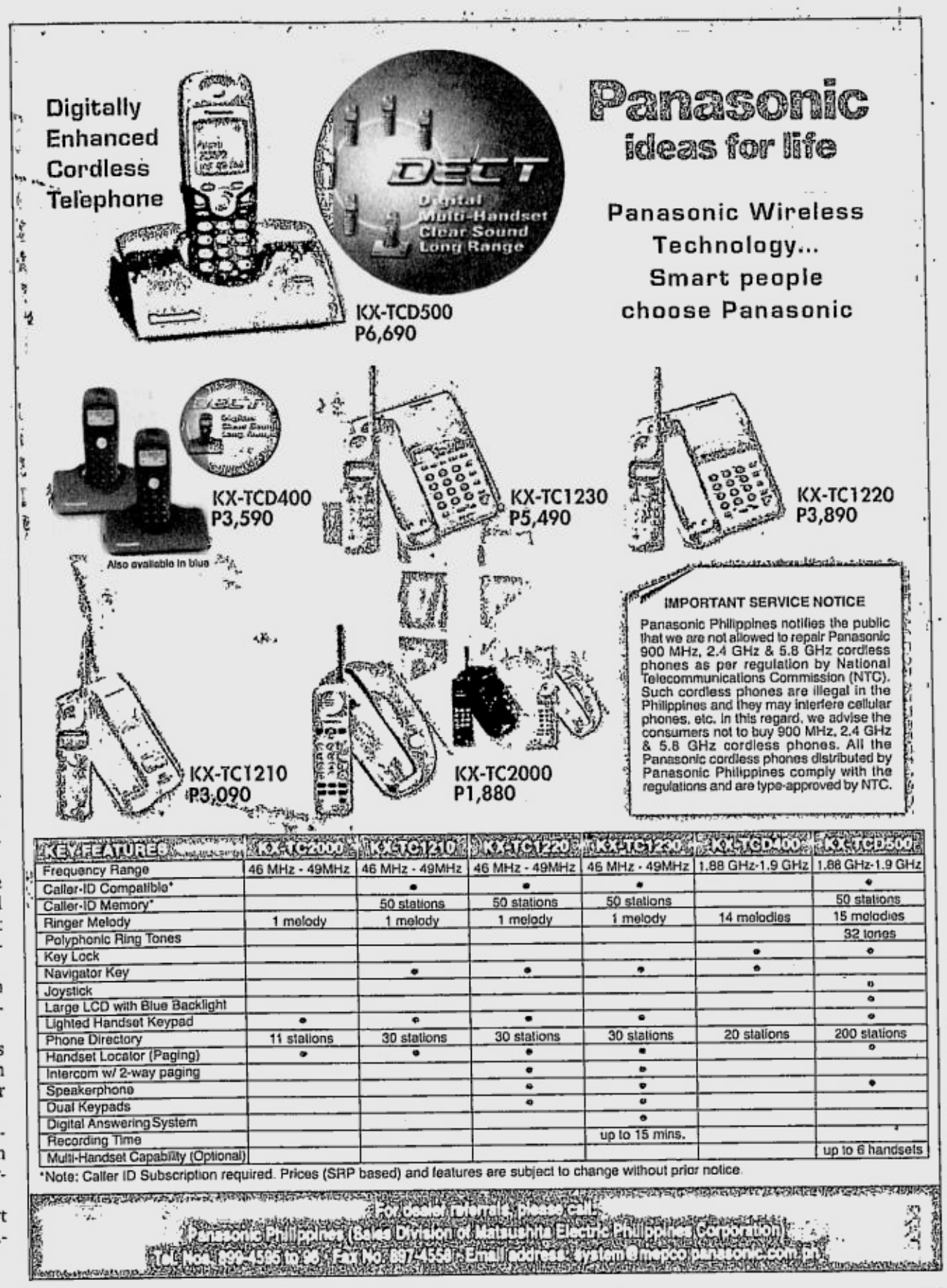
Chua said that the bulk of PLDT's debt were hedged. She said the new accounting would cover only the obligations that were not hedged or protected by foreign exchange fluctuations.

Companies worldwide must comply with two new international accounting standards.

The first, already being implemented this year, requires companies to book any foreign exchange losses on transaction on the year these were incurred and not later.

Up for adoption next year is the requirement that outstanding losses on foreign exchange transactions be made transparent.

Nazareno said the company would start adopting the new global accounting benchmark this fourth quarter.



KEY FEATURES	KX-TC2000	KX-TC1210	KX-TC1220	KX-TC1230	KX-TCD400	KX-TCD500
Frequency Range	46 MHz - 49MHz	46 MHz - 49MHz	46 MHz - 49MHz	46 MHz - 49MHz	1.88 GHz-1.9 GHz	1.88 GHz-1.9 GHz
Caller-ID Compatible*		•	•	•		•
Caller-ID Memory*		50 stations	50 stations	50 stations		50 stations
Ringer Melody	1 melody	1 melody	1 melody	1 melody	14 melodies	15 melodies
Polyphonic Ring Tones						32 tones
Key Lock					•	•
Navigator Key		•	•	•	•	
Joystick						•
Large LCD with Blue Backlight						•
Lighted Handset Keypad	•	•	•	•		•
Phone Directory	11 stations	30 stations	30 stations	30 stations	20 stations	200 stations
Handset Locator (Paging)	•	•	•	•		•
Intercom w/ 2-way paging			•	•		
Speakerphone			•	•		•
Dual Keypads			•	•		
Digital Answering System				•		
Recording Time				up to 15 mins.		
Multi-Handset Capability (Optional)						up to 6 handsets

*Note: Caller ID Subscription required. Prices (SRP based) and features are subject to change without prior notice.

For details, Please call:
Panasonic Philippines (Sales Division of Matsushita Electric Philippines Corporation)
Tel. No. 890-1565 to 90 Fax No. 897-4558 Email address: system@mepco.panasonic.com.ph

Subsidy loss may force NFA to hike price of rice

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE RETAIL price of the cheapest available rice in the market may increase by as much as P3 per kilo next year to P21 from the current average of P18 if the government fails to subsidize its trading unit the National Food Authority (NFA).

At present, the state-owned trading firm has been scrambling for rice imports to secure the national buffer stocks that have been depleted by the typhoon relief operations.

The NFA will have to deal with the rising world market price of the commodity—now pegged at $300 per metric ton—when it begins importing some 320,000 metric tons of rice this January.

"The question now is, will the national government again foot the bill for the consumers?" NFA Administrator Gregorio Y. Tan Jr. asked. "The tight market supply and increasing demand has put pressure on world market prices. As we speak, prices are moving up. We would have to incur more losses that is projected at P2.1 billion."

Tan said that if the Department of Budget and Management does not have enough funds to partly support the cost of the NFA's rice imports, the agency would have no choice but to jack up retail prices.

He added that the recent decision to increase the buying support price for palay by P1 per kilo had worsened the NFA's financial state. The state firm traditionally has been buying palay from farmers at P8 to P9.50 per kilo (which is higher than private traders' price to increase farmers' income.) Nevertheless, it sells at lower retail prices for the sake of the consumers.

The NFA has estimated rice imports to reach 900,000 metric tons in 2005. This may cost the country P17 billion, based on the $340 per metric ton cost and an exchange rate of P56 to the US dollar.

Also, Tan is not discounting the possibility that the import volume may increase depending on how badly the El Niño weather disturbance affects production.

"Let's hope that the country could hurdle the El Niño next year and enable farmers to increase production," an NFA official said. "Otherwise, it will be more expensive to import rice."

Belgian mission checks out RP trade prospects

By Ronnel W. Domingo

SOME 35 Belgian companies are in town for a three-day visit to scout for possible business ventures and promote their country as a gateway to trade with Europe, according to the Embassy of Belgium.

The arrival of the business officials last Monday kicked off the nine-day three-country Belgian economic and trade mission that would also cover Kuala Lumpur and Jakarta.

"The (mission) fills us with pride because it emphasizes the interest of Belgian companies for business opportunities in the Philippines," Belgian Ambassador Christian Tanghe said.

"The visit means that the Philippines radiates the rich potential it has to offer and that, in spite of the numerous challenges that still lie ahead, the opportunities are spotted by our companies," Tanghe added.

The envoy also said that the administration's medium-term development plan set the right priorities for the next six years.

He believes the plan is conducive to enhancing the climate for business even further.

"We encourage all involved—both official and private—to implement it with determination and focus," Tanghe said. "I am sure it would lure many more trade missions from Belgium and Europe."

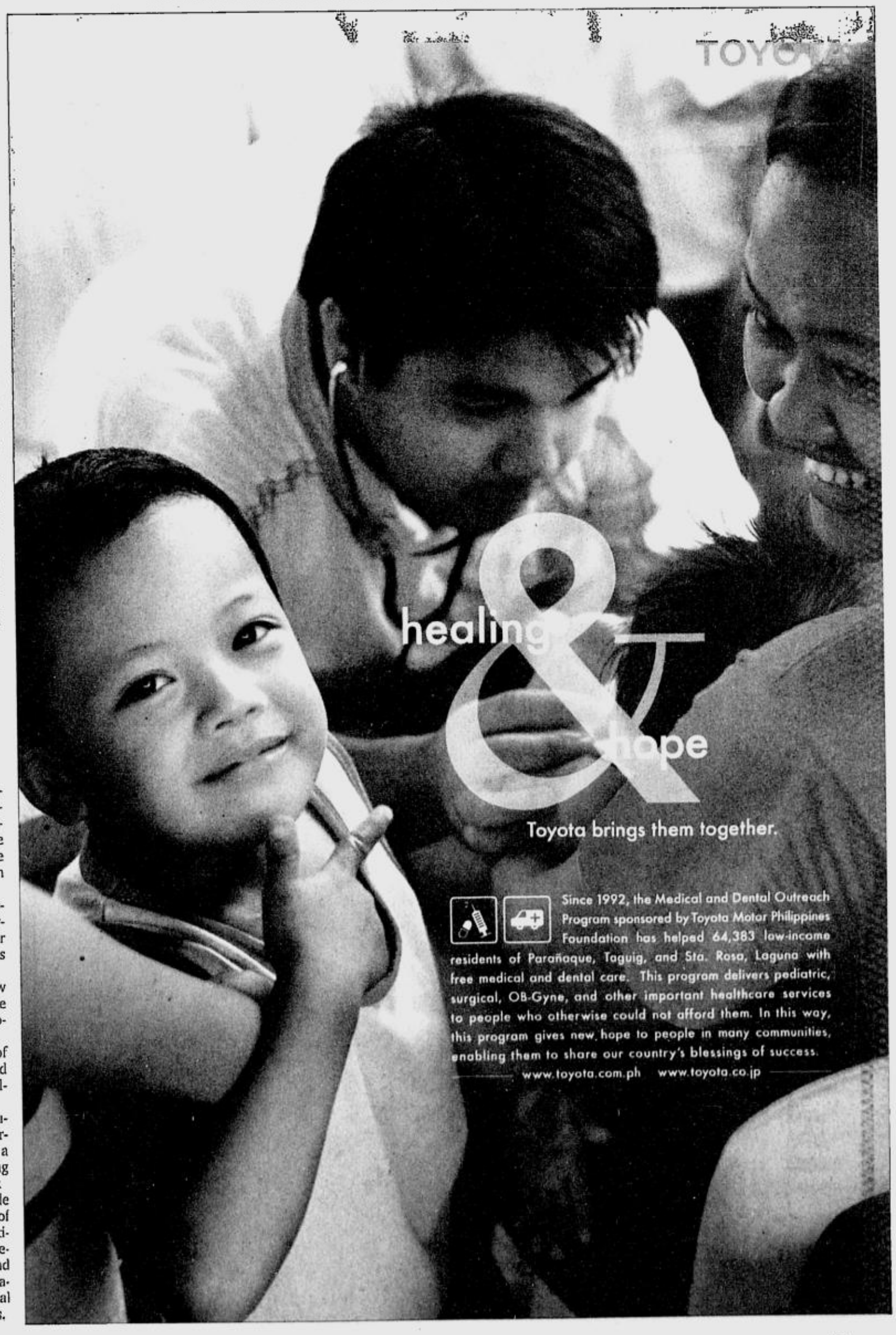
"I am convinced that this mission would promote Belgium further as an important gateway for Philippine business opportunities in the European Union."

Data from the embassy show that Belgium is currently the fourth-largest market for Philippine exports in the EU.

In the first eight months of 2004, two-way trade amounted to P16.5 billion or about 222 million euros.

Located in the northwest of Europe, Belgium is part of a major urban and commercial axis. It is a heavily urbanized zone extending from England to the north of Italy.

The Belgian delegates include representatives from the sectors of agribusiness, food, pharmaceuticals and chemicals, waste management, medical equipment and health services, energy, transportation, mining, logistics, financial services and telecommunications.



2004 WORKSITE MARKETING SALES CONGRESS

Theme:
Expanding Horizons

DECEMBER 6-8, 2004

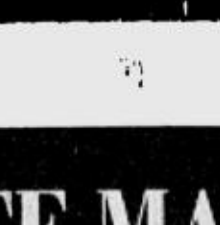
FONTANA LEISURE PARKS
CLARKFIELD, PAMPANGA

PHILAM LIFE
Are You Ready for Life?

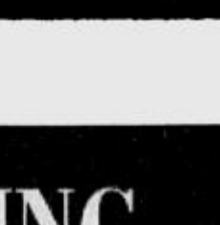
WORKSITE MARKETING PRODUCERS CLUB

The Worksite Marketing Producers Club is a special group of producers who thrives on activity, momentum and flexibility. We recognize their spectacular performance in 2004 as they represent the top 10% of all Worksite agents nationwide. Our hats off to all of them!

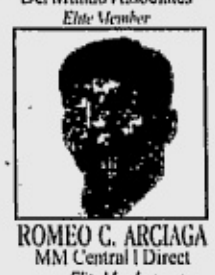
ROEL C. NABOS
Davao-Evangelista Agency
Platinum Member

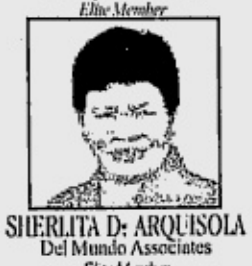

PENAFRANCIA G. SIMON
Del Mundo Associates
Elite Member

DANILO M. MAMARIL
L. Roque Associates
Elite Member

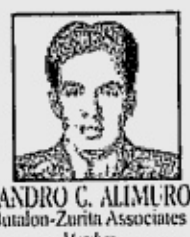

LORENZO I. COMIDOY
Davao-Evangelista Agency
Elite Member

DEVINA O. HIBAYA
Davao-Evangelista Agency
Elite Member


ROMEO C. ARCIAGA
MM Central I Direct
Elite Member


SHERLITA D. ARQUISOLA
Del Mundo Associates
Elite Member

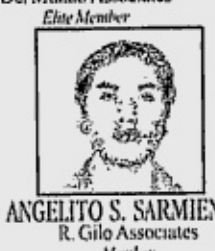
ROSITA D. ARRIOLA
Del Mundo Associates
Elite Member


ALEJANDRO C. ALIMURONG
Butalon-Zurita Associates
Member

ZEMMA Z. VILLAREAL
Ramos Associates
Member

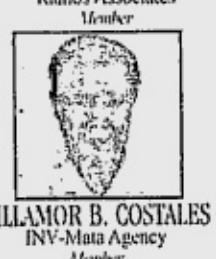
ARNEL N. SAPAD
Tarlac-Pineda Agency
Member

VICENTE A. ALCANSADO
Cotabato-Jerez Agency
Member

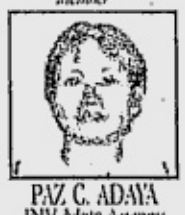

ANGELITO S. SARMIENTO
R. Gilo Associates
Member

JASMIN V. BACAYO
Cebu-Barue Agency
Member

RODOLFO V. TAGLE
R. Gilo Associates
Member


VILLAMOR B. COSTALES
INV-Mata Agency
Member

MIRALUNA B. HAMPAG
Cotabato-Jerez Agency
Member


PAZ C. ADAYA
INV-Mata Agency
Member

ALFONSO F. SINON
INV-Mata Agency
Member

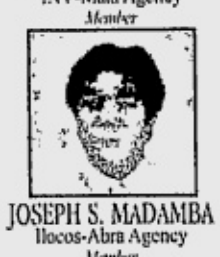
GUIDO A. MELLA
Cam.-Dela Rosa Agency
Member

TERESITA G. DE LARA
Del Mundo Associates
Member

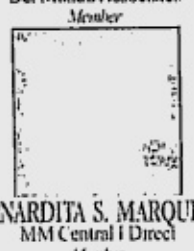
MARISSA J. AFUANG
Antonio Associates
Member

QUISA Q. BARRETTO
Cotabato-Jerez Agency
Member

ESTERLITA P. PRIA
R. Gilo Associates
Member


JOSEPH S. MADAMBA
Ilocos-Abra Agency
Member

LEONIDA M. MERCOLITA
Bulacan-Maturino Agency
Member

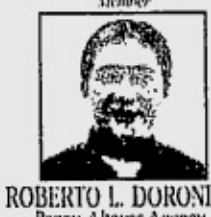

BERNARDITA S. MARQUINEZ
MM Central I Direct
Member

AIDA C. MATTI
Antonio Associates
Member

EULOGIA T. QUITOR
Cotabato-Jerez Agency
Member

METHODIO V. MAGNAYE
Capule Associates
Member

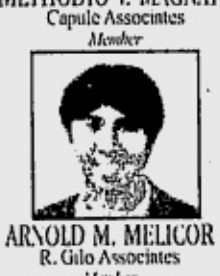
PURITA M. VALDEZ
Del Mundo Associates
Member

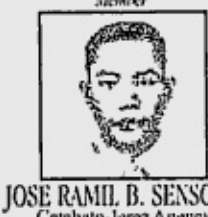

ROBERTO L. DORONILA
Panay-Altavas Agency
Member

ANASTACIA N. LEONARDO
Bagui Associates
Member

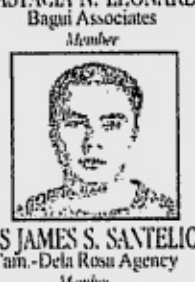
GIL R. OLLETA
Cam.-Dela Rosa Agency
Member

AMPARO C. IGNACIO
Uson Associates
Member


ARNOLD M. MELICOR
R. Gilo Associates
Member


JOSE RAMIL B. SENSORO
Cotabato-Jerez Agency
Member

CESARIO T. BATINGA
R. Gilo Associates
Member


CYRUS JAMES S. SANTELICES
Cam.-Dela Rosa Agency
Member

ERLINDA T. FRANCO
Espiritu Associates
Member

APOLLO B. GILO
R. Gilo Associates
Member

JOSE L. ALTO, JR.
Cam.-Dela Rosa Agency
Member

BEATRIZ B. CADAG
Bongala Associates
Member

JIMMY S. GUZMAN
INV-Mata Agency
Member

STEVANSKI F. ROMERO
Cam.-Dela Rosa Agency
Member

EDERLINDA L. SALUD
MM Central I Direct
Member

RIZALINO B. DE CASTRO
Cam.-Altarejos Agency
Member

JOSE A. SAN BUENAVENTURA
Cam.-Dela Rosa Agency
Member

ROMEO C. ABELLERA
Capule Associates
Member

MANUELITO M. LAYOSA
Tan Associates
Member

ALICIA B. GARBIN
Bagui Associates
Member

CARINTHIA R. AUSTRIA
R. Gilo Associates
Member

ESTHER N. VILLAREAL
Antonio Associates
Member

GAUDENCIO S. RACHO
Bagui Associates
Member

SONIA N. ARDIENTE
Bagui Associates
Member

IGNACIO B. PACARDO, JR.
Cam.-Dela Rosa Agency
Member

EDILBERTO M. RODRIGUEZ
Antonio Associates
Member

AMORY EVAN A. LO
Davao-Evangelista Agency
Member

ROLAND JUAQUIN A. GENIO
Cam.-Dela Rosa Agency
Member

REX L. EMANO
Davao-Evangelista Agency
Member

ALMA M. LANUGAN
Cotabato-Jerez Agency
Member

JOCELYN C. PENAVERDE
Bagui Associates
Member

CORAZON C. MOLINA
R. Gilo Associates
Member

ARACELI C. SAN JUAN
Dy Associates
Member

RENEE M. GATBONTON
Bongala Associates
Member

CYNTHIA A. MEDINA
Bongala Associates
Member

CARLITO A. CAMANSE
Pagadian-Tamala Agency
Member

EDITH J. PRADO
Davao-Huyatid Agency
Member

ESTRELITA A. ENIMEDEZ
Bongala Associates
Member

JUVY W. MONCADA
Davao-Evangelista Agency
Member

FELIX A. FEDERICO
Cavite-Medrano Agency
Member

CRISTIE M. CADAG
Bongala Associates
Member

ALIW V. DEL ROSARIO
Bacolod-Sy Agency
Member

EDGARDO V. BATAD
Bacolod-Sy Agency
Member

HARRAYA D. VILLARICO
Bacolod-Sy Agency
Member

GUALBERTO A. AGUILAR
Bacolod-Sy Agency
Member

wsm Millionaires' Club

The Worksite Marketing Millionaires' Club is an elite group of Worksite Agency Leaders. They believe that the foundation of a strong agency is built around a steady base of Worksite producers.

JUANITO I. DELA ROSA
Cam.-Dela Rosa Agency

ALFONSO O. JEREZ
Cotabato-Jerez Agency

JOSE ISAGANI F. ANTONIO
Antonio Associates

FLORANTE R. PINEDA
Tarlac-Pineda Agency

ROSEMELIA B. GILO
R. Gilo Associates

JOHN P. MATA, JR.
INV-Mata Agency

DOMINGO B. BONGALA
Bongala Associates

ROGER S. DY
Dy Associates

PABLO O. TAMALA, JR.
Pagadian-Tamala Agency

LOURDES M. DEL MUNDO
Del Mundo Associates

HENRY L. EVANGELISTA
Davao-Evangelista Agency

SERAPIO G. MAUNAHAN
Rizal-Maunahan Agency

AURORA A. ROMERO
MM Central I Direct

PATRICIA E. BAGUT
Bagui Associates

YOLANDA ML. ALTAVAS
Panay-Altavas Agency

Ilocos-Abra Agency

ERWIN Y. SAPLALA
Saplala Associates

ENRICO A. CAPULE
Capule Associates

NELIA M. ZABALERIO
Zabalerio Associates

FLORENTINA B. ANCHETA
Cagayan-Ancheta Agency

JAMES WALTER P. CAPILI
Capili Associates

CARLOS S. HUYATID
Davao-Huyatid Agency

ANTONIO R. VARIAS
Cavite-Varias Agency

ESTRELLA P. ALTAREJOS
Cam.-Altarejos Agency

CHARITO H. AZARIAS
Davao Direct

WILBERT L. ZURITA
Butalon-Zurita Associates

JOSE M. BUTALON
Butalon-Zurita Associates

JOSE P. MALIGALIG
Batangas-Maligalig Agency

CONCEPCION B. GONZAGA
Iloilo-Gonzaga Agency

wsm TRAILBLAZERS

The Worksite Trailblazers continuously build up new Worksite agents. This group of Unit Managers have developed at least 3 Worksite agents this 2004. They believe that indeed Activity is the Difference in making their units more dynamic and productive.

ARNOLD DJ. ARTETA
Cam.-Dela Rosa Agency

ROSEMELIA B. GILO
R. Gilo Associates

BEATRIZ V. PASTORIN
Cotabato-Jerez Agency

HENRY L. EVANGELISTA
Davao-Evangelista Agency

JOSEFINA S. HIPOL
Bagui Associates

RENE P. VILLARICO
Bacolod-Sy Agency

AURORA A. ROMERO
MM Central I Direct

With solar plant, Mindanao gains power edge

THE 1-MEGAWATT solar power facility in Cagayan de Oro City, the largest grid-connected solar plant in the country, is expected to provide more reliable power to Mindanao and ease some of the main grid's dependence on hydroelectric power.

With the commissioning of the new solar power facility, which would be operated by the Cagayan Electric Power and Light Co. (Cepalco), Mindanao would now be able to enjoy a more reliable supply of power, Energy Secretary Vincent Perez said.

According to data from the Department of Energy, last year, hydro accounted for 62 percent of Mindanao's generation mix, with oil contributing 25 percent and geothermal another 13 percent.

President Macapagal-Arroyo herself yesterday led the launching ceremony of the $5.3-million plant, which used 6,480 units of polycrystalline silicon solar cells from Japan's Sharp Corp. to capture sunlight for conversion into electricity.

Apart from this plant, many areas in Mindanao were already harnessing the power of the sun to produce electricity. These, however, were mostly off-grid solar power facilities generally used in remote areas.

DOE data show that around 160 communities in Mindanao are now enjoying the benefits of solar energy through the United States Agency for International Development Alliance for Mindanao Off-grid Renewable Energy Program (USAID-Amore).

The state-owned Philippine National Oil Co., through its Solar Home Systems Distribution Project in the Cordillera Administrative Region, is likewise tapping the power of the sun for electricity production.

The PNOC project aims to install around 15,000 solar home system units in unelectrified households in rural locations.

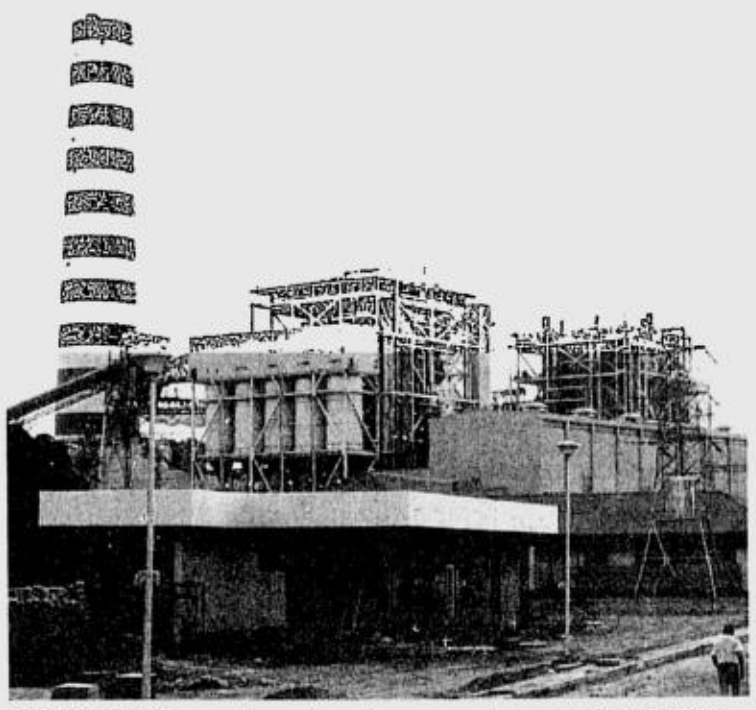
Alternative energy sources, Perez said, were most welcome in Mindanao as the grid's current generating capacity was not enough to meet its rapidly increasing demand, particularly from high-growth areas Davao and General Santos.

According to the DOE's updated Power Development Plan, Mindanao will be needing another 150 MW of new capacity by next year. However, the only committed project in the main grid is the 200-MW clean coal power facility that is seen to come on stream by 2006.

Abigail L. Ho

RATE HIKE NOT ENOUGH

Napocor losses mounting, expert says



THE SALE of Napocor's assets, such as power plants, would help solve the power firm's problems.

By Abigail L. Ho

THE NATIONAL Power Corp. likely incurred some P8 billion in losses since October as the Energy Regulatory Commission decided to only grant it a partial rate hike.

Consumer and Oil Price Watch chair Raul T. Concepcion said the ERC's approval of only a 98-centavo-per-kwh rate hike did little to alleviate its cash problems.

Napocor wanted a rate increase of P1.87 per kilowatt-hour (kWh) to partially solve its financial difficulties.

"The longer we delay the remaining rate increase, the more consumers will have to pay later on," he said in a statement yesterday.

He said Napocor's proposed rate hike of P1.87 per kWh should have given the state firm a return on rate base—a measure of profitability—of 8 percent.

But since the ERC approved only about half of what the state firm asked for, Napocor continued to incur losses these past months, amounting to some P8 billion since October.

The ERC had scheduled a final public hearing on the Napocor rate increase on Dec. 16.

Since the current additional 98 centavos per kWh that the state firm was charging its customers was given under a provisional authority, the permanent rate hike would still have to undergo public consultations before being approved by the regulatory body.

After that public hearing, he said the ERC would already decide on the merits of the proposed rate hike.

The regulatory body would decide whether the state firm would be getting what it originally asked for.

Even with another looming Napocor rate hike, Concepcion said consumers would have a little less to worry about in terms of electricity rates as the government had already absorbed P200 billion of Napocor's debts.

The debt absorption, he said, meant that the principal and the interest would no longer be included in Napocor's books.

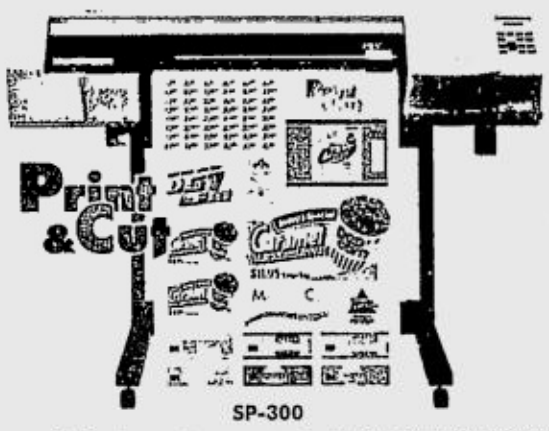
The absorbed amount would also no longer be considered in succeeding rate hike petitions.

He said the COPW would now be working at computing how soon Napocor's debts would be repaid as well as how much profits the government would generate from the sale of Napocor's generation assets and the privatization of the National Transmission Corp. through a concession agreement.

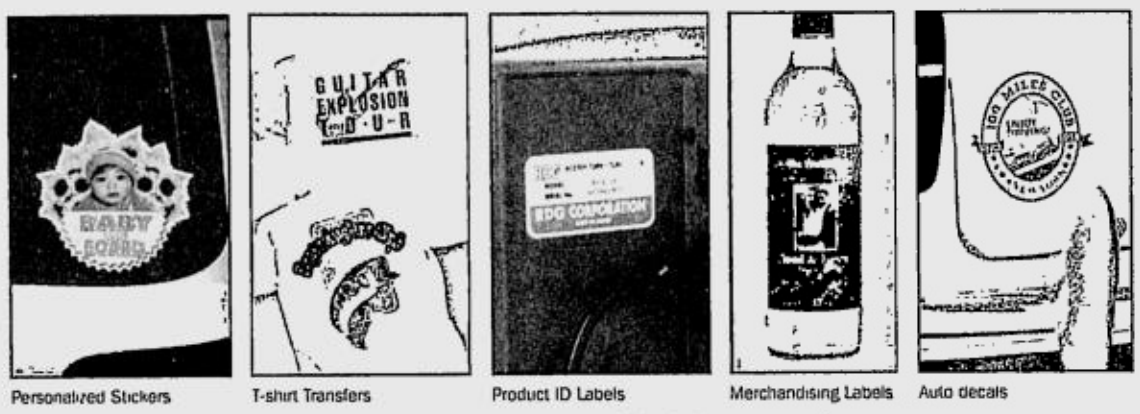
Panalo ka sa kakaibang negosyong ito!

Cut your cost of sticker-making

Roland
The No. 1 Choice of Signmakers around the World.



SP-300



Personalized Stickers | T-shirt Transfers | Product ID Labels | Merchandising Labels | Auto decals

Print single decal or bulk quantities at the click of a mouse!
- *NO EXTRA COST on die-cutting*
- *NO EXTRA COST on color separation*
- *NO EXTRA COST on lamination*

Exclusive Distributor
Tgraf TEAM GRAPHICS

Tel: 726-3991 to 98 loc.204, 232, 218, 202, 203, 223 / Fax: 723-7951
Email: inquire@tgraf.com.ph
www.tgraf.com.ph

Other Tgraf business packages include Xerox Phaser for Print-on-Demand, Roland Cutters for signmaking, Roland Soljet for banners and billboards, Roland EGX for engraving, Javelin for ID card printing, Mont Sturio digital photo enlargements, and more. Call us NOW and out yourself on a fresh, new business!

Was it the chauffeur or the papaitan?

We've never figured it out really, what worked better in the end, but we're thankful anyway.

Mrs. Gwen Roces had always been accompanied by her husband to the bank. He'd open the door for her, see her through, explain what the forms were for, tell her where to sign. And she'd always be listening cheerfully, her pen flashing in compliance. She was glad, we guessed, to have someone sorting out all the forms and procedures for her.

But the day came when Mr. Roces, quite regrettably, passed away. And our account with his wife appeared doomed to follow in his footsteps as well.

Until we remembered that she had never, in all her years with us, come to the bank by herself. It was always an adventure she embarked upon with her husband. And something we couldn't expect her to do alone.

So we arranged for a driver to pick her up at her house and bring her over. Smiling awkwardly, she stepped into the car. And just as awkwardly, we stepped into the role long reserved for her husband.

Smile by smile, we navigated the course of her transactions with her. And told her that if she wanted, we could keep on doing the same thing for her every time she needed to visit the bank. Her smile was all the yes we needed.

We took her to lunch, too, that day. To a place that, to our knowledge, served the best papaitan in Manila (we had learned earlier that it was, strangely enough, her favorite dish). She talked about how she was coping with the loss of her husband, about how the house seemed too big now, about how helpful people had been to her. And how the papaitan fell somehow short of its billing.

We had the driver bring her back home and we heard nothing from Mrs. Roces for the next two weeks. And then she called, asking to be picked up. She had some deposits to make, she said. And a newly cooked pot full of what was truly, as we discovered, the best papaitan in Manila.

(If this doesn't sound like the kind of relationship you have with your bank, you may want to give us a try.)

Bank
International Exchange Bank
TAKING RELATIONSHIPS TO HEART

Member PDIC MEGALINK Member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation. Maximum Deposit Insurance for Each Depositor P250,000 • Contact Call Center No. 8784787 • Website: www.iebank.com.ph • The story told here is true and based on actual facts. Some details were slightly modified to protect the privacy and identities of the people involved.

Deal on NDC investment in SLEX readied

By Clarissa S. Batino

SOUTH Luzon Tollway Corp., a joint venture between the government and Hopewell Crown Infrastructure Inc., and National Development Co. are working out the agreement that will pave the way for the latter's infusion into the project of some P3 billion in loan and quasi equity.

Hopewell Crown president Joel Bañares said the agreement would allow the state-owned NDC, through the Philippine Infrastructure Corp., to participate in the P10-billion upgrade of the South Luzon Expressway.

Bañares said NDC would infuse into the project P3 billion in loan and quasi equity.

About 200,000 motorists use the SLEX daily and roughly 60 percent of Luzon's produce is transported through this highway everyday.

"NDC's entry will be backed by preferred shares and bonds. Its shares will likely be non-voting and that the control will remain with the current stakeholders," he said.

The existing stakeholders, according to Bañares, want the NDC to take charge of the right-of-way acquisition so that civil works can start next year.

Hopewell Crown owns 80 percent of the tollway company while the state-run Philippine National Construction Corp. holds the remaining 20 percent.

Hopewell Crown is 51 percent owned by MTD Capital Berhad of Malaysia, 39 percent by Filipino firm Northeast Development and Acquisitions Corp. and 10 percent by Hopewell Holdings Ltd. of Hong Kong-based tycoon Gordon Wu.

The Hong Kong firm was the original proponent of the Slex upgrade. Wu signed a $480-million deal with the Estrada administration to carry out the two-phase SLEX rehabilitation and expansion.

The first phase of the P10-billion project covers the repair of the Alabang viaduct, the widening of Alabang to Calamba network and the link-up of SLEX in Calamba to the Southern Tagalog Arterial Road or Star in Sto. Tomas, Batangas. Phase two is the extension of SLEX from Calamba all the way to Lucena City.

Bañares said that of the P10 billion in project cost, P3 billion would be financed through equity infusion and P7 billion through borrowings. The P3-billion equity will come from Northeast Development, MTD Capital and Hopewell Holdings.

He said MTD Capital officials would be arriving today to formalize its investment in Hopewell Crown.

MTD Capital is Malaysia's second biggest toll operator running four tollways there. It also operates a tollway in Sri Lanka. Listed in the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange, MTD Capital registered a turnover of $152 million in fiscal year ending March 2004. The Malaysian firm was chosen over other potential partners including French firm Egis.

Bañares said negotiations for the Supplemental Tollway Operation Agreement would start soon. The tollway firm and the PNCC would discuss the parameters of the Stoa with the Tollway Regulatory Board.

The Stoa defines the tollway rate that would make the venture viable. A Stoa is required by creditors prior to the granting of the loan as this determines the capability of the borrowers to pay.

Bañares said the International Finance Corp. had agreed to put in $30 million in quasi equity and to arrange about $100 million in debt. Metrobank's First Metro Investment Corp. was also interested to underwrite a P3-billion loan.

GIR hit 9-mo low of $15.8B in Nov.

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY'S gross international reserves slipped to a nine-month low of $15.82 billion in November due to the servicing of public sector debt.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said yesterday that the 11-month GIR level was 0.6 percent lower than the October revised figure of $15.92 billion.

"Probably we'll end the year closer to these numbers," he said.

The end-November GIR build-up was also lower than the $16.82 billion level posted during the same period last year.

"The decline in reserves was attributed mainly to the debt service requirements of the national government and the BSP," Buenaventura said.

Buenaventura, however, said the GIR level was still enough to cover about 4.2 months of imports of goods as well as payments of services and income.

"Alternatively, this level was equivalent to 2.6 times the country's short-term debt based on original maturity and 1.4 times based on residual maturity," he said.

Short-term debt based on residual maturity refers to outstanding short-term external debt on original maturity plus principal payments on medium- and long-term loans of the public and private sectors falling due within the next 12 months.

As a result, the BSP's net international reserves (BSP-NIR) as of end-November 2004, inclusive of revaluation of reserve assets and reserve-related liabilities, decreased slightly to $14.12 billion from last month's level of $14.2 billion.

The GIR—consisting of the BSP's gross foreign currency holdings, gold reserves, special drawing rights from multilateral institutions and foreign investments—is an indicator of the government's ability to service the foreign exchange requirements of the economy.

The BSP likewise dips into the GIR when it needs to defend the local currency from speculative attacks.

The slower build-up in foreign reserves this year was partly due to the slowdown in the current account surplus, a major component of the balance of payments.

The current account records trade in goods and services as well as transfers while the capital and financial account records loan transactions, investment flows, short-term capital and other related items.

According to the BSP, the slower current account surplus this year was due to the rise in imports and did not mean that the economy was becoming less competitive in global trade. The increase in the import bill was also attributed to skyrocketing oil prices.

For next year, the BSP expects the country to spend about $4.5 billion on foreign debt servicing, about $1 billion less than the requirements estimated this year.

The slowdown in these financing requirements is seen to contribute to the projected swing to a balance of payment surplus in 2005 and lessen pressures on the peso-dollar exchange rate.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo called on the private and public sectors to work together in connecting schools to the Net during the opening ceremonies of the 1st National ICTS in Basic Education Congress in Cebu City. With the President were PLDT and Smart public affairs head Mon Isberto, Foundation for Information Technology Education and Development chair Roberto R. Romulo and Education Secretary Florencio B. Abad. The congress was attended by some 800 public and private school teachers and administrators, as well as stakeholders from the private sector and the NGO community. The PLDT group of companies sponsored the event.

ATR KE goes regional, invests in HK-based private equity fund

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

A GROUP led by investment firm ATR KE Capital Partners Inc. is investing roughly $1.5 million in a Hong Kong-based private equity fund that will, in turn, invest in Asian companies.

ATR KE Capital has signed yesterday an agreement with Rim Asia Capital Partners G.P., a new fund that will have an initial capitalization of $23 million.

ATR KE Capital president Manuel Tordesillas told the INQUIRER that the fund's capital might be increased to $100 million once it was offered to investors in the United States and Europe, aside from those in Asia.

The fund will be invested in Asian pre-IPO (initial public offering) companies and even listed companies. It aims to tap the growth seen in countries like China, Taiwan and Korea.

ATR KE Capital is investing roughly $500,000 or nearly P25 million in the Hong Kong fund.

Together with its private clients, ATR KE Capital will hold a 6-percent stake in Rim Asia.

"The outlook on Asia is very good and by investing in the private equity fund, we will be able to access investment opportunities throughout the region in partnership with leading players in key countries like China,Taiwan and Korea," Tordesillas said.

ATR KE Capital is a wholly-owned subsidiary of listed firm ATR Kim Eng Financial Corp. and is ranked among the top five investment houses in the country.

ATR KE Capital has holdings in brokerage firm ATR-Kim Eng Securities, AsianLife & General Assurance Corp., AsianLife Financial Assurance Corp., Prebon Philippines and The Mutual Fund Management Company of the Philippines, which holds the P140-million Kabuhayan Fund.

ATR KE Capital was recently awarded the best domestic investment bank by The Asset financial magazine for 2004. It recently managed the P1.1 billion initial public offering of International Exchange Bank (iBank) and the almost P750-million offering of Philippine Stock Exchange shares.

AG&P pays initial P20M to separated workers

AG&P is stirring again, landing projects abroad and earning enough to pay its separated workers an initial P20 million to settle a labor dispute that, combined with the Asian financial crisis, sent the company into a court-ordered rehabilitation.

The rehabilitation plan provides for the payment of an additional P50 million next year for the separation benefits of 1,064 workers involved.

The country's oldest engineering company resumed operations in its Batangas Heavy Fabrication Yard middle of last year with projects from local clients. Early this year, it sent 280 workers to Angola to undertake a hookup and commissioning project on an offshore gas compression plant owned by Chevron Texaco.

"AG&P still carries its corporate charisma among international clients and has the required competence to carry out technically difficult projects. Our latest foreign clients are very happy with our work and are in fact strongly endorsing us to new and bigger projects," said company president Angelito Bermudo.

Bermudo said that settling the labor claims was critical to ensuring uninterrupted operations. The company has rehired many of the separated workers who possess the required qualifications.

AG&P started operations in 1902. In 1996, a group led by DMCI acquired majority shares in the company. AG&P was severely affected by the Asian financial crisis and had to suspend operations and seek court protection four years ago.

Stocks dip . . .

From page B1

The main index finished 4.29 points or 0.24 percent lower at 1,799.08 points. The stock market is up 25 percent so far this year.

Value turnover dipped to P1.27 billion from Monday's P1.3 billion. But in the broader market, gainers beat losers 47 to 39.

2TradeAsia said mining stocks will continue to shine following the Supreme Court order last week opening the mining sector to foreign investments. *Reuters*

Oil prices bounce on Opec cut talk, Saudi attack

LONDON—World oil prices bounced from a three-month low on Monday as traders looked for Opec to take action to stem a slide which knocked 14 percent off crude prices last week.

An attack by suspected Muslim militants on a US consulate in Saudi Arabia, Opec's leading producer, and the occupation in Nigeria by villagers of three oil-producing platforms in a row over jobs also supported prices.

US light crude was trading 65 cents higher at $43.21 a barrel early Tuesday, climbing away from Friday's $42.05 trough.

Prices fell $7 last week and are down from a late-October peak of $55.67 a barrel.

London Brent crude rose 52 cents to $39.90 a barrel.

In Saudi Arabia Muslim militants stormed the US consulate in the western Red Sea city of Jeddah.

It was the first major assault by suspected al-Qaida militants in the kingdom since the attack in May on westerners in the eastern oil city of Khobar.

Last week's price fall raised the alarm among some members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, which meets on Friday in Cairo.

For the first time in six months, Opec is talking of the need to clamp down on quota-busting production to curb its highest output in 25 years, and may consider cutting formal supply limits.

"There's been a change in sentiment on the possibility Opec could cut output, but of course if prices go up on that expectation it may make it more difficult for them to do so," said Christopher Bellew of brokers Bache Financial.

Kuwait, Iran and Libya said Opec should eliminate the extra supplies now being pumped above official quotas, or go further and cut formal quota limits.

Milder-than-normal winter weather cut nearly 500,000 barrels a day off world demand in October and November, Goldman Sachs estimated in a report. *Reuters*

Asian shares decline

SINGAPORE—Asian stocks closed mostly lower yesterday on nerves over Japan economic data and Hong Kong IPOs due this week.

Tokyo's benchmark Nikkei stock average fell 0.25 percent to 10,954.01 by its mid-session close, Hong Kong's Hang Seng was up 0.14 percent at 14,283.58 in early trade, while an MSCI index of Asian non-Japan shares was 0.46 percent lower at 255.79.

Tokyo traders said investors were on the sidelines ahead of revised gross domestic product (GDP) figures for the July-September quarter, due on Wednesday, and October machinery orders data due on Thursday to get a better idea of how Japan's economy is faring.

"The Nikkei is basically stuck around 11,000 and we're all waiting for a signal for which way to go next," said Koji Muneoka, head of domestic sales trading at HSBC in Tokyo.

In Hong Kong all eyes were on two large IPOs—Air China and the Hong Kong Housing Authority's Link's property trust—due to raise a combined $4.1 billion this week.

Singapore's Straits Times rose half a percent, led by Sembcorp, which announced a special dividend.

Taiwan's benchmark index dropped a third of a percent ahead of legislative elections on Saturday.

Australia's S&P ASX 200 fell 0.31, dragged down by Amcor.

South Korea's KOSPI fell 0.61 percent.

Global stocks as measured by the MSCI World Index were down 0.36 percent.

US stocks offering no clear direction to Asian markets, closing mixed.

The Dow Jones industrial average ended down 0.43 percent at 10,547.06 as oil prices nudged higher.

The Nasdaq Composite Index finished up 0.15 percent at 2,151.25 as Apple Computer Inc. rose 5 percent.

Gold fell to $452.75 an ounce from $454 overnight. January NYMEX crude climbed 8 cents to $43.06. Ten-year JGB futures were flat, yielding 1.4 percent. *Reuters*

Powered by Intel® Centrino™ mobile technology, the NEO Q-Note wireless notebook is the PC that's light enough to take anywhere.

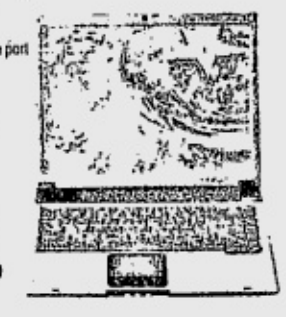
And since it's wireless, you can connect from thousands of hotspots.

This holiday season, treat yourself to a NEO Q-Note powered by Intel® Centrino™ Mobile Technology.
Get special savings at 0% interest for 12 months from Nov. 15, 2004 to Jan. 15, 2004. Give yourself the perfect gift. Get a Neo Q-Note today!

Q-NOTE M360C/M360CS

- Intel® Centrino™ Mobile Technology
  - Intel® Pentium® M Processor 725 (1.60 GHz processor, 2MB L2 cache, 400 MHz FSB)
  - Intel® 855GM Chipset
  - Intel® PRO/Wireless 2200BG LAN 3B Mini PCI Adapter
- 256MB DDR Memory
- 40GB Hard Disk Drive
- 14" TFT XGA Display (1024x768)
- Combo DVD + CDRW Drive
- 56K Modem, 10/100 LAN
- 2x USB 2.0, 1 x 1394 Firewire port
- Built-in Webcam
- Weighs approx 2.75Kg
- Optional 2nd 12 cell battery
- Free Carry Case

₱5,416.58 Per month x 12 mos
SRP 64,999.00



Q-NOTE T2.1C TABLET PC

- Intel® Centrino™ Mobile Technology
  - Intel® Pentium® M Processor 725 (1.60 GHz processor, 2MB L2 cache, 400 MHz FSB)
  - Intel® 855GM Chipset
  - Intel® PRO/Wireless 2200BG LAN 3B Mini PCI Adapter
- 256MB DDR Memory
- 40GB Hard Disk Drive
- 14" TFT XGA Display (1024x768)
- Combo DVD + CDRW Drive
- 56K Modem, 10/100 LAN
- 2x USB 2.0
- 4-in-1 Memory Card Reader
- Built-in Webcam
- Weighs approx 2.6Kg
- Free Carry Case

₱6,249.92 Per month x 12 mos
SRP 74,999.00

Q-NOTE M12W/M12TWS

- Intel® Centrino™ Mobile Technology
  - Intel® Pentium® M Processor 725 (1.60 GHz processor, 2MB L2 cache, 400 MHz FSB)
  - Intel® 855GM Chipset
  - Intel® PRO/Wireless 2200BG LAN 3B Mini PCI Adapter
- 256MB DDR Memory
- 40GB Hard Disk Drive
- 12.1" TFT WXGA Display (1280x800)
- Combo DVD + CDRW Drive
- 56K Modem, 10/100 LAN
- 2x USB 2.0
- Infrared
- Built-in Webcam
- Weighs approx 2Kg
- Free Carry Case

₱6,333.25 Per month x 12 mos
SRP 75,999.00

FREE!
Canon IP1000 Bubble Jet Printer &
Canon LS-12PC USB-Calculator

PER DTI NCR PERMIT NO. 5526 SERIES OF 2004

See flyers for more details

NEO
Q-NOTE SERIES
www.neo.com.ph

Intel, Intel logo Intel Inside, the Intel Inside logo, Intel Centrino, Intel Centrino logo, Celeron, Intel Xeon, Intel SpeedStep, Itanium, Pentium, and Pentium III Xeon are trademarks or registered trademarks of Intel Corporation or its subsidiaries in the United States and other countries

Wireless connectivity and some features may require you to purchase additional software, services or external hardware. Availability of public wireless LAN access points limited. System performance measured by MobileMark® 2002. System performance, battery life, wireless performance and functionality will vary depending on your specific hardware and software configurations.

Accepted Major Credit Cards for 0% Installment : BANKARD, BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS, DINERS CLUB INTERNATIONAL, STANDARD CHARTERED BANK
FOR COMPLETE PRODUCT INFORMATION, please dial PC-MANIA (632-7262642) / 7260707, email mktg@neo.com.ph.
Visit our showrooms, Digital Playground : 4L Cyberzone Bldg B SM Megamall & Gilmore IT Center, Gilmore Ave. cor Aurora Blvd . QC. PER DTI NCR PERMIT NO. 5444 SERIES OF 2004

Operation Sagip Buhay

Needed:

Food:
- Canned goods
- Mineral water
- Sugar
- Iodized salt
- Rice

Non-Food:
- Blankets and mats
- Kitchen utensils
- Laundry and bath soap
- Mosquito nets
- Slippers
- Clothes
- Candles, matches, flashlight
- Water Container (Jerry Cans)

Medicines:
- Vitamin C, Oral Rehydration Salts, Water Purifying Tablets, Paracetamol

GOODS may be delivered to:
Camp Aguinaldo, Office of Civil Defense, Edsa
Catholic Media Network Office, Xavier House No. 2307 Pedro Gil, Sta. Ana, Manila
Contact Persons: Fr. Francis Lucas or Mr. Sanny Jegillos (IRDC)
Tel Nos.: 563-7321, 563-7313, 564-4480
Fax No.: 563-7327
Email: sagipbuhay@yahoo.com

Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati
Tel. No.: 897-8808 loc. 239

CASH DONATIONS may be deposited to:
Any Bank of Philippine Islands Branch-Account Name: Sagip-Buhay Infanta Fund; Account Number-3223-3892-35
Any Metrobank Branch-Account Name: Sagip-Buhay Infanta Fund; Account Number-231-3-23120502-1

FOR OTHER AREAS:
Diocese of Cabanatuan/Social Action Center, please contact Bishop Sofronio Bancud, SSS, D.D/ Fr. Lito Parulan/Fe Juana • Tel. Nos.: (44)463-3849, 463-0388, (0917)3272125 (Fe)

FOR OTHER INQUIRIES:
please contact Ms. Milet Mendoza, Assisi Development Foundation • tel. nos. 632-1001 to 03; (0917)8391237

Partners:
Assisi Development Foundation • Ayala Foundation • Philippine Daily Inquirer • Institute for Disaster Risk Management • Hands On Manila • United Laboratories • Catholic Media Network • Corporate Network for Disaster Response • Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Inc. in coordination with the Department of Social Welfare and Development and the National Disaster Coordinating Council

8 KEYS TO YOUR DIFFERENT INTERESTS

Only from PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Kapuso Kara

DONATE

It's Not Wh

It's What W

GMA
KAPUSO FOUNDATION
A GMA NETWORK SUBSIDIARY

Us

mo

NWIDE

Here are the 3 ways on how you can donate:

1. SMART Money
Send your donations thru SMART Money by transferring the amount you want to donate to G.M.A. Kapuso SMART Money Account No. 5577 5118 5889 7103. You will receive a confirmation message for this transfer.
Transfer fee costs P 4.50 charged to donor.

2. SMART Paddle
Tell your loved ones or friends abroad to donate via SMART Paddle. They can remit cash through SMART Paddle Remittance Partner Abroad. The amount will be transferred to G.M.A. Kapuso SMART Money Account # 5577 5118 5889 7103.

SMART Paddle Remittance Partner Abroad:
1. Banco De Oro
2. CBN Grupo
3. DAS
4. Forex Hongkong
5. New York Bay Remittance (NYBR)
6. Travelex Money Transfer

3. SMART Wireless Center
For all other donations (cash or goods) you can visit any of our SMART Wireless Centers nationwide.

For inquiries please call 888 5454.

at We Gain

e Give Back

I ♥ SMART
Simply Amazing!

PEOPLE at WORK

Text us your feedback: Inquirer paw name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

E-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Raul O. Marcelo**
Subsection Editor **Regina Galang Reyes**

How do you deal with your best talent?

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

DEAR WW: I just lost one of my best employees. And now a few others are starting to make similar noises. What can I do to convince them to stay?

Sticky

Anyone worried about keeping their best people needs to know about Howard Brown. He's not a retention guru, CEO or consultant; in fact, you could argue that he is the antithesis of retention. It all started on Howard's wedding day, when a guest at his wedding brought too many friends. Howard shot him. Howard's honeymoon had to wait; he spent the night in the slammer.

Many of us are more like Howard than we'd care to admit. We march down the aisle and vow to make a commitment to our best talent—then we fill them full of buckshot. Follow the tips below and it will increase the odds that you'll have a long-term relationship with your top people. For more, check out Leigh Branham's book, "Keeping the People Who Keep You in Business" (Amacom, 2001).

Do you know who your top talent is? Duh. It's surprising how many companies don't even know who their best men and best women are. But don't just look at the numbers; look for the team players and the people who make everyone around them better.

Are they treated fairly? Recently, we did a poll at Working Wounded/ ABCnews.com., eight percent said that a bigger paycheck was most important to them while 41 percent said that at the top of their list was being treated fairly.

Other polls back this up; simply treating people fairly will go a long way to keeping your people happy. Are they constantly challenged? There is an old quote, "You paid for my hands, you could have had my brain for free." Most employees like a job that challenges them.

Unfortunately, most bosses never take the time to learn how they'd like to be challenged. Sit down with each of your top talent and ask what matters to them, before you can become stickier for your best talent, you've got find out their priorities.

Do you increase their responsibility and visibility? It's natural to want a bigger sandbox and more credit when you're a top performer. And it's easier to do than many of us realize. Next time there is a senior staff meeting, can you send one of your top talent to sit in for you? Can you give them more control over their projects? Or can you give them credit publicly for something they've accomplished?

Do you keep in touch even after they've left? More and more companies have learned that it's smart to keep in touch with former employees. It's not just out of generosity or kindness; as long as they haven't gone to a direct competitor, they can often send a substantial amount of business your way. But not if you treat them like traitors.

If you want to avoid a nasty separation, put effort into keeping your vows to your current top talent.

Here are the results from a recent workingwounded.com/-ABCnews.com online ballot: How much of a priority is keeping your top talent?

—Given the economy, it's not at the top of my list, 15.6 percent

—There are plenty of hungry people out there if they're unhappy, 31.3 percent

—Retention is job number 1, 52.9 percent

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

(Mr. Rosner, an internationally syndicated columnist, author and speaker, is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. E-mail him at bob@workingwounded.com.)

PEOPLE at Work columnists (standing from left to right) Teresa Reyes Tunay, Bishop Precioso Cantillas, Tita Datu Puangco, (seated from left to right) Josie Santamaria, Ernie Cecilia and editor Regina Galang Reyes.

Be part of People at Work

WOULD you like to be part of a family that can help you in your career growth and development? Join the People at Work community where members support each other in the quest for a better career and life. People at Work columnists, writers and editorial staff will also be part of this group to lend you a helping hand. Working professionals, jobseekers, human resource executives and practitioners, managers, trainers, consultants and all others willing to share and help are welcome to join. Members will have access to updates and discounts on People at Work events, advice from People at Work columnists and writers and other members, chat schedules with members and "eyeball" events. To join, send your name, gender, civil status, age, contact number, e-mail address and company name and position title (if applicable) to peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph or fax to tel. no. (632) 938-2092 or text to 02-937-0376.

STI takes initiative in bringing Filipino health care workers to Japan

By Candy G. Villanueva
Contributor

THOUSANDS of nurses and caregivers were given a sliver of hope recently when the Philippine government announced that it was finalizing the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) that will open job opportunities for Filipino health care professionals in Japan. Last week, the sliver of hope was expanded to a beam of shining light as the private sector initiated a concrete step towards the goal of developing a job market for Filipinos in Japan.

Recently, STI and its affiliate placement company, Global Resource for Outsourced Workers (GROW, Inc.) entered into a partnership with Medical Associa, one of the largest Japanese medical employment agencies, to welcome Filipino nurses and caregivers in Japan.

"The government has opened up the market in Japan. Members of the private sector should start the private sector initiative to help make it a reality with what the government has started," urges Eusebio Tanco, executive committee chairman of STI. Tanco hopes that the partnership will help bridge the gap between supply and demand. The Philippines has been experiencing an increase in population growth of almost three percent every year. In contrast, Japan's population has been declining. The STI education services group saw this statistic as an opportunity to provide a job market abroad to thousands of unemployed Filipinos. "With the advent of the FTA, the job market is not limited to just the local market. Right now the job market is global. It is the whole world," says Tanco.

Growing need

Because of the population decline, Medical Associa claims that they have a growing need for health care professionals. For next year alone, they will need over 5,000 nurses and caregivers in Japan. STI and GROW hope to supply this need. Tanco adds that their side would try to send as many health care professionals as they can. He says that there should not be a quantitative restriction. "We are talking to the government that we should not put a cap or number on the professionals going to Japan."

According to Yoshio Kato, CEO and president of Medical Associa, STI was chosen as a partner because of its large network of schools and its capability to provide world-class training to Filipino nurses and caregivers. An Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) education services group, STI continues to expand its program offerings beyond computer courses. The company has branched out to engineering, education, business and health care. Presently, 20 out of its more than 100 schools are offering BS Nursing. STI also holds a majority stake at the Delos Santos-STI College of Health Professions.

Japanese company

Braving the storm, Kato arrived from Japan last week to take a closer look into the background of Filipino nurses and caregivers in the Philippines and formalize the partnership with STI. With STI president Monico Jacob and executive committee chairman Eusebio Tanco, the partnership was sealed with the contract signing last Dec. 2 at the STI headquarters in Makati.

Medical Associa is a human resources solutions company that focuses on meeting the needs of both employers and employees in the health care industry. They service hundreds of hospitals, pharmacies, clinics, nursing homes and long-term care facilities in Japan. Since 1985, Medical Associa has placed over 16,000 health care professionals in Japan. Next year, the company hopes to increase this number substantially with the influx of Filipino workers. According to Tanco, Medical Associa is partial to the Filipino health care workers. "We are the preferred ones because we are caring and friendly."

IT discipline

While waiting for the government to finalize the agreement, STI and GROW are preparing the Filipino health care professionals. They are currently training nurses and caregivers to help them meet Japan's standards. The training includes intensive Japanese language instructions. In addition, STI is also including IT in their curriculum." We are providing an IT discipline for our health care professionals because the whole world is electronically wired today," claims Jacob. He notes how Japan and other progressive countries operate electronically in hospitals. He says most countries no longer use charts. Health care professionals use PDAs and most hospitals are wired. "You can't avoid the fact that we are in an IT century. STI is in a better position to provide health care workers with IT proficiency so they are better equipped to meet the requirements of health care in Japan and around the world."

Upon the signing of the FTA, the country is also expecting Japan to open the market for Filipino IT workers, engineers and architects. STI is preparing for this market. "Our mission as an education institution goes beyond the realm of providing quality education. We go every step of the way to ensure our students become valuable and productive members of society," says Jacob. "This is our way of helping our people and our country. The partnership with Medical Associa is another major step towards this end."

FROM left to right: Monico Jacob, president of STI, Eusebio Tanco executive committee chairman of STI, Yoshio Kato president of Medical Associa and Takeaki Kato public affairs of Medical Associa.

CANDY G. VILLANUEVA/CONTRIBUTOR

Deserving accountant yearns for recognition

By Tita Datu Puangco

Advice FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

I'M CURRENTLY with a government regulatory agency. On our agency anniversary, model employees among the rank-and-file, supervisors, and managers will be given citations.

The criteria in the search for this year's cream of the crop, however, appears to be out of turn because of one requirement to qualify for nomination. The person should have worked at least three years with the agency. It is astonishing how or why length of employment has become relevant in the selection process. I think measuring the worth of an employee's contribution is better directed towards such goals as savings, efficiency and effectiveness enhancements, cost control, and other beneficial endeavors.

The imposition of three years minimum tenure excludes many outstanding aspirants. Exclusion of a newcomer whose achievement surpasses those of an old-timer due to such prerequisite is simply unfair. I think this situation diminishes the significance of accomplishment and, consequently, the workplace does not become conducive to the expression of one's best abilities.

Sometime this year, my efforts as field office accountant succeeded in outsmarting the cunning of a collecting officer who has been skimming the agency's revenues. Without going into details, such depredation had gone unnoticed for a couple of years prior to my assumption of office. My findings were solid and not simply based on a hastily, ready-made conclusion. There was no way out for the perpetrator. In fact, he admitted to being culpable with just one stroke.

Does it not behoove the agency to recognize such a good deed that allows recouping losses and preventing recurrence of seemingly interminable cheating and stealing? Furthermore, the accountant did not succumb to the temptation of a pay-off in terms of a percentage cut in the loot taken in the past and share in the amount to be carved out on future collection proceeds. The accountant chose to do the right thing; he junked the opportunity to make easy money despite knowing that such ar-

DESERVING/ B13

Life lessons from Papa

WORKING MOM

Gina Abuyuan-Llanes

I'VE WRITTEN a lot about my mom in this column, but I've never written anything about my father. I guess that's being unfair, because my father's influenced my work and my being a parent as much as my mom has. It's just that his impact on me is less obtrusive—like he is. While my mom does things with flash and flair, my father moves silently, unobtrusively. Parenting experts will correctly surmise that Papa's un-demonstrativeness has been a source of angst for me, but when I think about it, I realize it's precisely his taciturn manner that's given me the strength and confidence to deal with some great milestones in my life.

These are some of the things he's managed to teach me, in not so many words.

One: Take charge of yourself

I am 16 years old. I'm in UP Los Baños, a strange land with strange customs, strange food, strangers. I am to live in the Vet Med Dorm. Mom's in the US. How will I survive?

My Papa knows. He's an expert dormer. He likes telling us about his adventures in Narra and Molave, two dormitories in UP Diliman. He also told me about his fraternity, Sigma Rho. It's like he had been preparing me all throughout my young life for this transition from girl to young lady: the big, wild, wonderful world of college.

Right now, however, I don't feel like a lady. We stand in line together at registration. Oddly, I don't feel embarrassed. I'm with my Papa, so what? He explains "reg" to me, but I understand nothing amidst the din. Then, we hear something that will later always elicit laughter round the dinner table. The Reg Assistant is calling out the names of the students—last name first, followed by the first name—whose form 5s are ready:

"Bayani!" he says. Then titters. "Great!"

We crack up.

Back in the dorm, Papa even helps me make my bed. He is the one who slips on the covers, tugs at the sheets, pulls on the pillowcases. I watch in fascination.

When it's time for him to leave, I feel like crying, and maybe he does, too. But—after years of being trained to act cool in any circumstance (the only time we ever cried together was when his dad, Lolo Tomas, died a couple of years before)—we don't. So I hug him, kiss him, say thank you. He asks one last time before he goes: will you be all right? I say yes. I have a knot of fear clogging up the base of my throat, but I don't let it escape. Papa turns and walks down the corridor.

Sometimes, I wish I had that old helplessness, so that I could experience again his taking care of me. But I realize that was precisely what my Papa was teaching me, then: take charge of yourself. In the end, no one will take care of you but yourself. It's what I'm starting to teach my daughter, in increments that fit her age.

Two: never believe anyone who says you're going to fail

I'm 20, doing my film thesis, and applying to jobs left and right. One production house that's interested has hired me to work as scriptwriter/production assistant for an event. Unfortunately, though, filming has left my schedules all screwed up. I resign via a letter, and forget about it. I am surprised, therefore, when a friend tells me that she overheard my ex-future-ex boss comment that with my attitude, I'd "never make it in the industry."

I relate everything to Papa, scared that maybe indeed, this lady had the power to smother my future in media. He huffs. "*Sulatan mo ulit*," he says. "Tell them, 'up yours!'"

I don't, of course. But I almost do, five years later, when I'm a desk editor of The Business Daily and that same lady tracks me down and calls me to help with an event. "Oh, I'm sorry, busy ako e," I answer. I wonder where she is now.

It's the same sort of encouragement I give my daughter—and my team at the magazine: Just go forward. Don't listen to those who say you can't do it.

Three: Always decide on things with a clear head

It's a lesson I hear time and again, in different versions, over the next several years, especially during my darkest moments. First, when I find out I am pregnant with my daughter. I had already told my mom, but Papa has yet to know. He's in the sunroom, reading the papers, and I run to him, bury my face in his chest. "What am I going to do?" I wail. "What do you mean what are you going to do?" he says, patting my shoulder. "You're going to have a baby. Take care of her."

And, again, when my marriage is on the rocks. In my fits of rage against my husband, I try to force Papa to pull strings (he's a lawyer) and have my marriage certificate pulled out, expedite my annulment—anything to get me out of the mess I'm in. "Papa! Do it!" I scream. Again, his infuriating calm: "You must be crazy. You got into that, you fix it. *Matanda ka na*."

Yes, I am. And Mardy and I are friends now—still separated, but not enemies.

Happy birthday, Pa

Today, Papa turns 60. He is still the perennial fratman; a guy from the old school. He gets his hair cut by the same guy for the past 20 years, insists that his pants are ironed with pleats, and unlike men his age, still looks pretty much like he did when he was in college—slim, poker-faced, *mabango*. When he enters a party, he makes himself comfortable with a Scotch and cigarette, sits quietly, and waits for the people to come to him. And believe me, they do.

Admittedly—and like how many kids feel about their parents—I sometimes wish things could be less detached between us. "*Ang cool ng dad mo*!" my cousins and friends tell me when they get to talk to him. Yeah, I reply dryly, sometimes too cool for his own good. But I say it much in the manner people seem to dismiss a compliment but actually encourage it. They take the bait: "Wooo! *Pareho naman kayo e*!" "*Hindi ha*," I insist, twirling the ice in my Scotch glass, trying to copy Peter Ustinov when guesting with Merv Griffin.

Or maybe, I'm just copying Papa.

(Gina Abuyuan-Llanes is editor in chief of Working Mom magazine. Feedback is welcome at gina_llanes@abs.pinoycentral.co.)

Deserving accountant yearns ...

From page B12

rangements would leave no trail of evidence of wrongdoing on his part.

Would it be presumptuous to raise my objection on the inclusion of length of employment in determining whom to proclaim model employees? Is there a conflict of interest for me to raise the issue? Thank you.

Deserving Achiever

For a start, let me congratulate you for your diligence in your work as an accountant. As a Filipino and taxpayer, I rejoice that you are able to go against the current and stop one person from continuing to steal from the agency coffers. In my view, doing good is its own reward. I hope the fact that your deed was not recognized by your agency does not discourage you from continuing to do good. We know that "the softest pillow is a clean conscience" and the best rewards are not mere earthly rewards.

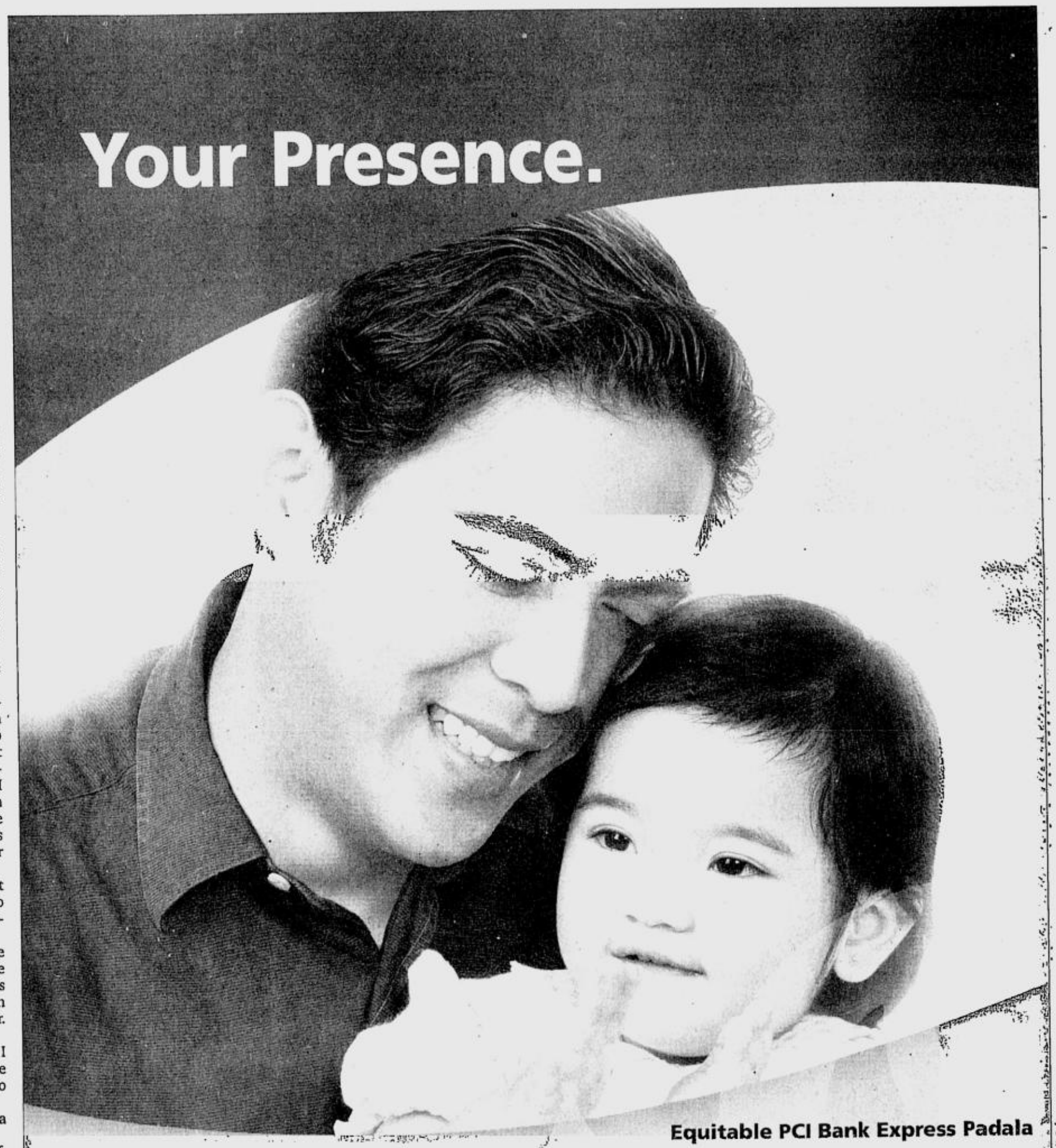
On the recognition criterion of a "three-year tenure," trust management as they exercise their management prerogative on awards. One reason I can think of is to ensure that awardees show steady excellent performance. Some employees may show outstanding performance on their first year and slacken off on the second year.

There is no rule prohibiting your giving suggestion to management or the committee responsible for the awards that they rethink the criteria for the awards. But the change has to be in the light of the common good rather than self-interest.

You mentioned your achievement. Frankly, I think the positive incident is part of your role and responsibility as a field accountant and your deed meets performance standards. I don't mean to minimize it, but you may have to create first a track record of performance. So my suggestion for you is to be patient. Do not work simply to be recognized. Work because it is the best service you can give to people in your office and to your family. Work because you are able to fulfill yourself using your God given talents. Work because it contributes to your well-being and quality of life.

Meantime, continue to rejoice. In God's time you will get the recognition you deserve.

(Ms Puangco is CEO and chair of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send feedback through e-mail to advice@ancillaedc.com.ph *or fax to* 892-2902.)



Equitable PCI Bank Express Padala

At Equitable PCI Bank, we bring your loved ones working abroad closer to home. Because we give them the means to continue providing for your family.

With Equitable PCI Bank Express Padala, your loved ones can express their love and care for you through Express Padala and Express Regalo Remittance products. It almost feels like they never went abroad.

Equitable PCI Bank Express Padala. Just one of the many reasons that make banking with us a most pleasant experience every time. Because all we do is all for you to be your Bank of Choice.

Equitable PCI BANK

Your Bank of Choice

Contact our Call Center at 84-911 (Metro Manila)
PLDT 1-800-188-84-911 and Digitel 1-800-333-84-911 (Provincial)
visit www.equitablepcib.com

57 Years

PLUS MEGALINK Member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation. Maximum Deposit Insurance for Each Depositor P250,000.

Government Service Insurance System (GSIS)

Financial Center, Pasay City, Metro Manila 1308

INVITATION TO BID

The GSIS, thru its Acquired Assets Evaluation Committee (AAEC), shall conduct a public bidding for the **"BLOCK SALE"** (per subdivision basis) of the following subdivision housing units and lots on December 20, 2004 at 2:00pm HRDD Lobby GSIS Building, Financial Center, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

CODE No.	SUBDIVISION	MINIMUM BID
QRSI 001-0013	13 housing units and lots Area B Queen's Row Subd. Molino, Bacoor, Cavite	P 5,615,560
SRVV 001-347	347 housing units and lots Viva Villa Subdivision Bo.Tangle, Mexico, Pampanga	74,693,000

1) Interested buyers are required to secure copies of a)INSTRUCTION TO BIDDERS and b) BID FORMS from the Disposition of Assets Department , 5f Core C, GSIS Building, Financial Center, Pasay City.
2) Sealed proposals in triplicate, will be received at the 3rd level HRDD Lounge, GSIS Building Financial Center, Pasay City, starting at 9:00 AM BUT NOT LATER THAN 1:30PM on December 20,2004.
3) Each bid proposal shall be accompanied by a DEPOSIT IN CASH or CERTIFIED CASHIER'S/MANAGER'S CHECK issued in Metro Manila,payable to the GSIS in the amount equivalent to at least Ten (10%) Percent of the total bid price.
4) Proprties will be sold on "AS IS, WHERE IS BASIS" and the buyer shall take possession of the property without seeking assistance from the GSIS.
5) If the winning bidder who submitted the best offer fails to consummate the purchase of the property within the period prescribed by the GSIS, his/her proposal deposit will be FORFEITED and failure of bidding shall be declared.
6) The GSIS reserves the right to reject any or all offers, to waive any informality found therein or to accept any proposal which in its judgement is advantageous to the GSIS.
7) ALL AWARDS BY THE GSIS AAEC ARE SUBJECT TO THE FINAL APPROVAL OF THE PRESIDENT AND GENERAL &/or BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

(Sgd.) **ARNALDO C. CUASAY**
Senior Vice President
Housing and Real Property Development Group

Queen's Row, Phase B
Molino, Bacoor, Cavite

CODE NO	Property					Minimum Offer Price (Php)
				AREA (sqm)		
	TCT NO.	BLK	LOT	Lot	Impv	
QRSI-0001	850891	5	3A	127.5	35.2	467,880.00
QRSI-0002	850892	5	3B	127.5	35.2	467,880.00
QRSI-0003	850894	5	4B	128	35.2	468,960.00
QRSI-0004	850895	5	5A	173	35.2	575,400.00
QRSI-0005	849090	6	5A	100	35.2	396,160.00
QRSI-0006	850903	7	3A	114	35.2	432,560.00
QRSI-0007	850904	7	3B	114	35.2	432,560.00
QRSI-0008	850907	7	5A	103	35.2	403,960.00
QRSI-0009	850908	7	5B	100	35.2	396,160.00
QRSI-0010	850913	7	10A	100	35.2	386,000.00
QRSI-0011	850914	7	10B	100	35.2	396,160.00
QRSI-0012	849123	7	13B	100	35.2	396,160.00
QRSI-0013	849107	7	20B	100	35.2	396,160.00
						5,615,560.00

Viva Villa Subdivision
Brgy. Tangle, Mexico, Pampanga

CODE NO.	Property					Minimum Offer Price (Php)
				AREA (sqm)		
	TCT NO.	BLK	LOT	Lot	Impv	
SRVV-0001	446484	3	21	150	31.5	329,000.00
SRVV-0002	468229	3	21	150	31.5	329,000.00
SRVV-0003	448117	4	1	133	31.5	299,500.00
SRVV-0004	430593	4	2	130	31.5	302,000.00
SRVV-0005	461581	4	3	120	31.5	290,000.00
SRVV-0006	451682	4	4	120	31.5	290,000.00
SRVV-0007	451683	4	5	120	31.5	256,000.00
SRVV-0008	450077	4	6	120	31.5	256,000.00
SRVV-0009	451684	4	7	120	31.5	256,000.00
SRVV-0010	451686	4	9	120	31.5	290,000.00
SRVV-0011	450079	4	11	120	31.5	262,000.00
SRVV-0012	448118	4	12	120	31.5	262,000.00
SRVV-0013	448119	4	14	120	31.5	256,000.00
SRVV-0014	450081	4	15	120	31.5	256,000.00
SRVV-0015	450082	4	16	120	31.5	256,000.00
SRVV-0016	461580	4	17	120	31.5	262,000.00
SRVV-0017	448120	4	18	120	31.5	262,000.00
SRVV-0018	451687	4	19	120	31.5	256,000.00
SRVV-0019	450083	4	20	120	31.5	256,000.00
SRVV-0020	450085	4	23	120	31.5	256,000.00
SRVV-0021	450087	4	25	120	31.5	256,000.00
SRVV-0022	451689	4	27	120	31.5	262,000.00
SRVV-0023	450088	4	28	120	31.5	256,000.00
SRVV-0024	450089	4	29	120	31.5	290,000.00
SRVV-0025	448121	4	30	120	31.5	256,000.00
SRVV-0026	448276	4	32	120	31.5	262,000.00
SRVV-0027	448433	4	33	120	31.5	290,000.00
SRVV-0028	448434	4	35	120	31.5	290,000.00
SRVV-0029	450090	4	36	120	31.5	262,000.00
SRVV-0030	448435	4	37	120	31.5	262,000.00
SRVV-0031	450091	4	38	120	31.5	262,000.00
SRVV-0032	448122	4	40	120	31.5	262,000.00
SRVV-0033	448436	4	45	120	31.5	262,000.00
SRVV-0034	430596	4	46	120	31.5	262,000.00
SRVV-0035	430598	4	50	120	31.5	262,000.00
SRVV-0036	430599	4	52	120	31.5	262,000.00
SRVV-0037	430602	4	59	120	31.5	262,000.00
SRVV-0038	430594	4	61	139	31.5	314,700.00
SRVV-0039	448280	4	62	275	31.5	457,500.00
SRVV-0040	430603	4	63	120	31.5	290,000.00
SRVV-0041	433095	4	64	120	31.5	256,000.00
SRVV-0042	450092	4	66	120	31.5	256,000.00
SRVV-0043	448123	4	67	120	31.5	262,000.00
SRVV-0044	451693	4	68	120	31.5	256,000.00
SRVV-0045	430604	4	69	120	31.5	256,000.00
SRVV-0046	451694	4	70	120	31.5	262,000.00
SRVV-0047	461564	4	77	110	31.5	243,000.00
SRVV-0048	461565	4	78	110	31.5	243,000.00
SRVV-0049	430600	4	79	110	31.5	243,000.00
SRVV-0050	461566	4	80	110	31.5	249,000.00
SRVV-0051	451712	4	81	110	31.5	243,000.00
SRVV-0052	451671	4	82	110	31.5	243,000.00
SRVV-0053	450094	4	85	110	31.5	243,000.00
SRVV-0054	450097	4	86	110	31.5	243,000.00
SRVV-0055	450098	4	88	110	31.5	243,000.00
SRVV-0056	448124	4	91	110	31.5	277,000.00
SRVV-0057	461567	4	92	110	31.5	277,000.00
SRVV-0058	448447	4	93	110	31.5	243,000.00
SRVV-0059	448448	4	95	110	31.5	243,000.00
SRVV-0060	461558	4	97	110	31.5	243,000.00
SRVV-0061	451699	5	8	80	31.5	193,000.00
SRVV-0062	450099	5	11	80	24.0	192,000.00
SRVV-0063	461587	5	12	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-0064	450101	5	15	80	24.0	180,000.00
SRVV-0065	461589	5	16	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-0066	450107	5	17	80	24.0	180,000.00
SRVV-0067	461590	5	18	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-0068	450103	5	20	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-0069	450104	5	21	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-0070	451700	5	22	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-0071	450096	5	23	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-0072	451702	5	24	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-0073	450105	5	25	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-0074	451703	5	26	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-0075	450106	5	27	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-0076	450107	5	58	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-0077	448451	5	60	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-0078	450108	5	62	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-0079	448092	5	63	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-0080	450109	5	65	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-0081	448125	5	66	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-0082	448093	5	68	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-0083	430608	5	69	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-0084	448126	5	71	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-0085	461585	5	72	179	24.0	272,400.00
SRVV-0086	450110	5	73	128	24.0	211,200.00
SRVV-0087	450111	6	4	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-0088	450112	6	5	80		96,000.00
SRVV-0089	415786	6	6	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-0090	450114	6	8	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-0091	450115	6	9	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-0092	446886	6	10	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-0093	450116	6	11	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-0094	450117	6	12	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-0095	450118	6	13	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-0096	451704	6	14	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-0097	450119	6	15	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-0098	451705	6	16	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-0099	451706	6	17	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-0100	451708	6	19	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-0101	451709	6	20	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-0102	461593	6	21	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-0103	461594	6	22	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-0104	461597	6	30	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-0105	450120	6	32	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-0106	450127	6	34	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-0107	461598	6	35	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-0108	451710	6	36	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-0109	448127	6	38	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-0110	461600	6	39	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-0111	468150	6	42	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-0112	461603	6	43	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-0113	448128	6	44	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-0114	448129	6	46	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-0115	450123	6	50	80	24.0	163,200.00
SRVV-0116	450124	6	52	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-0117	461608	6	53	80	28.0	247,000.00
SRVV-0118	461609	6	54	80	28.0	247,000.00
SRVV-0119	461610	6	55	80	28.0	247,000.00
SRVV-0120	451711	6	56	80	28.0	247,000.00
SRVV-0121	461611	6	57	80	28.0	247,000.00
SRVV-0122	450125	6	61	80	28.0	247,000.00
SRVV-0123	450126	6	62	80	28.0	247,000.00
SRVV-0124	450127	6	63	80	28.0	247,000.00
SRVV-0125	468230	6	64	80	28.0	247,000.00
SRVV-0126	450128	6	65	80	28.0	247,000.00
SRVV-0127	468231	6	66	80	28.0	247,000.00
SRVV-0128	448284	7	4	120	31.0	327,500.00
SRVV-0129	461578	7	7	120	31.0	327,500.00
SRVV-0130	448083	7	8	120	31.0	327,500.00
SRVV-0131	461579	7	9	120	31.0	327,500.00
SRVV-0132	448453	7	10	120	31.0	327,500.00
SRVV-0133	448454	7	12	120	31.0	327,500.00
SRVV-0134	451716	7	19	120	31.0	327,500.00
SRVV-0135	451717	7	21	120	31.0	327,500.00
SRVV-0136	448085	7	22	120	31.0	327,500.00
SRVV-0137	448086	7	24	120	31.0	327,500.00
SRVV-0138	451718	7	25	120	31.0	327,500.00
SRVV-0139	433097	7	28	120	31.0	327,500.00
SRVV-0140	448087	7	29	120	31.0	327,500.00
SRVV-0141	433098	7	30	120	31.0	327,500.00
SRVV-0142	451719	7	32	120	31.0	327,500.00
SRVV-0143	446889	7	34	120	31.0	327,500.00
SRVV-0144	451721	7	35	120	31.0	327,500.00
SRVV-0145	451673	7	37B	60	28.0	221,000.00
SRVV-0146	433106	7	39A	60	28.0	221,000.00
SRVV-0147	433107	7	39B	60	28.0	221,000.00
SRVV-0148	430638	7	41A	60	28.0	221,000.00
SRVV-0149	430639	7	41B	60	28.0	221,000.00
SRVV-0150	430640	7	42A	60	28.0	221,000.00
SRVV-0151	450133	7	57	120	31.0	327,500.00
SRVV-0152	450134	8	1	119	31.0	350,000.00
SRVV-0153	415796	8	4	100	31.0	301,500.00
SRVV-0154	430615	8	8	100	31.0	301,500.00
SRVV-0155	430617	8	12	100	31.0	301,500.00
SRVV-0156	430618	8	14	100	31.0	301,500.00
SRVV-0157	448286	8	18	100	31.0	301,500.00
SRVV-0158	450139	8	19	100	31.0	301,500.00
SRVV-0159	451722	8	20	100	31.0	301,500.00
SRVV-0160	450140	8	21	100	31.0	301,500.00
SRVV-0161	450142	8	23	100	31.0	301,500.00
SRVV-0162	448088	8	24	100	31.0	301,500.00
SRVV-0163	450143	8	25	100	31.0	301,500.00
SRVV-0164	430620	8	26	100	31.0	301,500.00
SRVV-0165	450144	8	27	100	31.0	301,500.00
SRVV-0166	448133	8	28	100	31.0	301,500.00
SRVV-0167	448089	8	29	100	31.0	301,500.00
SRVV-0168	468232	8	30	100	31.0	301,500.00
SRVV-0169	448091	8	35	100	31.0	301,500.00
SRVV-0170	448134	8	37	100	31.0	301,500.00
SRVV-0171	433101	8	38	100	31.0	301,500.00
SRVV-0172	433102	8	40	100	31.5	258,500.00
SRVV-0173	448455	8	41	100	31.5	258,500.00
SRVV-0174	430642	8	45A*	50	22.5	143,200.00
SRVV-0175	430643	8	45B*	50	22.5	143,200.00
SRVV-0176	461562	8	46	100	31.5	258,500.00
SRVV-0177	430645	8	47B*	50	22.5	143,200.00
SRVV-0178	461568	8	48	100	31.5	258,500.00
SRVV-0179	461569	8	49	100	31.5	258,500.00
SRVV-0180	433104	8	50A*	50	22.5	143,200.00
SRVV-0181	433105	8	50B*	50	22.5	143,200.00
SRVV-0182	461571	8	53	100	31.5	258,500.00
SRVV-0183	451724	8	55	100	31.5	258,500.00
SRVV-0184	433103	8	56	100	31.5	258,500.00
SRVV-0185	415798	8	58	100	31.5	258,500.00
SRVV-0186	461572	8	59	100	31.5	258,500.00
SRVV-0187	430621	8	60	120	31.5	258,500.00
SRVV-0188	461573	8	61	100	31.5	258,500.00
SRVV-0189	451725	8	65	100	31.5	258,500.00
SRVV-0190	451675	8	67	100	31.5	258,500.00
SRVV-0191	415802	8	68	100	31.5	258,500.00
SRVV-0192	415804	8	70	100	31.5	258,500.00
SRVV-193.0	468237	9	50A	84	23.0	187,400.00
SRVV-0194	468238	9	50B	62	23.0	158,800.00
SRVV-0195	461574	9	51	118	23.0	221,100.00
SRVV-0196	430623	9	52	60	23.0	125,300.00
SRVV-0197	415808	9	53	60	23.0	145,700.00
SRVV-0198	415809	9	54	60	23.0	145,700.00
SRVV-0199	415810	9	55	60	23.0	145,700.00
SRVV-0200	415811	9	56	60	23.0	145,700.00
SRVV-0201	451726	9	57	60	23.0	156,200.00
SRVV-0202	461615	9	58	60	23.0	137,800.00
SRVV-0203	451727	9	59	60	23.0	145,700.00
SRVV-0204	430624	9	61	60	23.0	149,300.00
SRVV-0205	430625	9	62	60	23.0	149,300.00
SRVV-0206	430626	9	63	60	23.0	149,300.00
SRVV-0207	430628	9	65	60	23.0	149,300.00
SRVV-0208	430630	9	67	60	23.0	149,300.00
SRVV-0209	415812	9	73	60	23.0	149,300.00
SRVV-0210	415813	9	74	60	23.0	156,200.00
SRVV-0211	415816	9	77	60	23.0	156,200.00
SRVV-0212	461576	9	80	119	23.0	256,700.00
SRVV-0213	468183	11	20	110	31.5	275,300.00
SRVV-0214	468184	11	22	110	31.5	297,300.00
SRVV-0215	468185	11	24	110	31.5	275,300.00
SRVV-0216	468186	11	26	110	31.5	275,300.00
SRVV-0217	468187	11	28	110	31.5	275,300.00
SRVV-0218	468189	11	32	110	31.5	275,300.00
SRVV-0219	468190	11	34	110	31.5	275,300.00
SRVV-0220	468191	11	36	110	31.5	275,300.00
SRVV-0221	468192	11	38	110	31.5	275,300.00
SRVV-0222	468193	11	40	110	31.5	275,300.00
SRVV-0223	468500	11	48	110	31.5	275,300.00
SRVV-0224	468195	11	50	110	31.5	275,300.00
SRVV-0225	468196	11	52	111	31.5	275,300.00
SRVV-0226	468204	11	60	126	31.5	296,100.00
SRVV-0227	468197	11	62	120	31.5	288,300.00
SRVV-0228	468198	11	64	120	31.5	288,300.00
SRVV-0229	468199	11	66	120	31.5	257,175.00
SRVV-0230	468200	11	68	120	31.5	257,175.00
SRVV-0231	468202	11	74	120	31.5	247,725.00
SRVV-0232	468203	11	76	120	31.5	247,725.00
SRVV-0233	415818	14	125	50	22.5	98,700.00
SRVV-0234	415821	14	126	50	22.5	98,700.00
SRVV-0235	415822	14	127	116	22.5	177,900.00
SRVV-0236	415823	14	128	50	22.5	86,100.00
SRVV-0237	415824	14	129	50	22.5	86,100.00
SRVV-0238	415825	14	130	50	22.5	88,800.00
SRVV-0239	415826	14	131	50	22.5	98,700.00
SRVV-0240	415827	14	132	50	22.5	98,700.00
SRVV-0241	415828	14	133	95	22.5	152,700.00
SRVV-0242	415829	14	134	100	22.5	158,700.00
SRVV-0243	415830	14	135	50	22.5	98,700.00
SRVV-0244	415831	14	136	50	22.5	98,700.00
SRVV-0245	415833	14	138	50	22.5	98,700.00
SRVV-0246	415836	14	141	50	22.5	98,700.00
SRVV-0247	415839	14	144	50	22.5	98,700.00
SRVV-0248	468149	15	25	80	28.5	157,275.00
SRVV-0249	468148	15	27	80	28.5	157,275.00
SRVV-0250	468147	15	29	80	28.5	157,275.00
SRVV-0251	468177	15	31	80	28.5	157,275.00
SRVV-0252	468176	15	33	80	28.5	157,275.00
SRVV-0253	468175	15	35	80	28.5	157,275.00
SRVV-0254	468174	15	37	80	28.5	157,275.00
SRVV-0255	468173	15	39	80	28.5	157,275.00
SRVV-0256	468172	15	41	80	28.5	157,275.00
SRVV-0257	468171	15	43	80	28.5	157,275.00
SRVV-0258	468168	15	53	80	28.5	157,275.00
SRVV-0259	468167	15	55	80	28.5	157,275.00
SRVV-0260	468165	15	69	80	28.5	157,275.00
SRVV-0261	468164	15	71	80	28.5	157,275.00
SRVV-0262	468163	15	73	80	28.5	157,275.00
SRVV-0263	468159	15	81	80	28.5	157,275.00
SRVV-0264	468175	15	85	80	28.5	157,275.00
SRVV-0265	468155	15	89	80	28.5	157,275.00
SRVV-0266	468207	23	83	60	23.0	170,500.00
SRVV-0267	468208	23	84	60	23.0	170,500.00
SRVV-0268	468209	23	85	60	23.0	170,500.00
SRVV-0269	468213	23	89	60	23.0	170,500.00
SRVV-0270	468214	23	90	60	23.0	170,500.00
SRVV-0271	468216	23	92	60	23.0	170,500.00
SRVV-0272	468217	23	93	60	23.0	170,500.00
SRVV-0273	468218	23	94	60	23.0	170,500.00
SRVV-0274	468219	23	95	60	23.0	170,500.00
SRVV-0275	468220	23	96	60	23.0	170,500.00
SRVV-0276	468221	23	97	60	23.0	170,500.00
SRVV-0277	468223	23	99	60	23.0	170,500.00
SRVV-0278	468224	23	100	60	23.0	170,500.00
SRVV-0279	468226	23	102	60	23.0	170,500.00
SRVV-0280	468227	23	103	60	23.0	170,500.00
SRVV-0281	468228	23	104	60	23.0	170,500.00
SRVV-0282	451656	23	110	60	23.0	170,500.00
SRVV-0283	448096	23	111	60	23.0	170,500.00
SRVV-0284	451657	23	112	60	23.0	170,500.00
SRVV-0285	451658	23	113	60	23.0	170,500.00
SRVV-0286	451659	23	114	60	23.0	137,000.00
SRVV-0287	451660	23	115	60	23.0	137,000.00
SRVV-0288	451662	23	117	60	23.0	137,000.00
SRVV-0289	448097	23	118	60	23.0	137,000.00
SRVV-0290	448098	23	119	60	23.0	137,000.00
SRVV-0291	448099	23	120	60	23.0	137,000.00
SRVV-0292	448100	23	121	60	23.0	137,000.00
SRVV-0293	448101	23	122	60	23.0	137,000.00
SRVV-0294	451663	23	123	60	23.0	137,000.00
SRVV-0295	448102	23	124	60	23.0	137,000.00
SRVV-0296	448103	23	125	60	23.0	137,000.00
SRVV-0297	446895	23	126	60	23.0	137,000.00
SRVV-0298	451664	23	128	142	23.0	233,200.00
SRVV-0299	448104	24	59	150	31.5	266,000.00
SRVV-0300	448105	24	61	150	31.5	266,000.00
SRVV-0301	461583	24	65	150	31.5	266,000.00
SRVV-0302	451669	24	69	150	31.5	266,000.00
SRVV-0303	461553	24	74	150	31.5	251,000.00
SRVV-0304	448278	24	78	150	31.5	251,000.00
SRVV-0305	451665	24	79	150	31.5	251,000.00
SRVV-0306	451666	24	81	150	31.5	266,000.00
SRVV-0307	446898	24	83	150	31.5	266,000.00
SRVV-0308	415764	1A	1	106	31.5	223,600.00
SRVV-0309	430588	1A	2	100	31.5	207,000.00
SRVV-0310	415765	1A	3	100	31.5	207,000.00
SRVV-0311	415772	1A	6	100	31.5	207,000.00
SRVV-0312	415768	1A	7	100	31.5	207,000.00
SRVV-0313	415769	1A	8	100	31.5	206,000.00
SRVV-0314	415770	1A	9	100	31.5	207,000.00
SRVV-0315	448431	1A	10	100	31.5	207,000.00
SRVV-0316	448432	1A	11	100	31.5	207,000.00
SRVV-0317	430589	1A	12	100	31.5	207,000.00
SRVV-0318	446881	1A	15	100	31.5	207,000.00
SRVV-0319	448425	1A	16	100	31.5	207,000.00
SRVV-0320	451678	1A	19	100	31.5	207,000.00
SRVV-0321	448132	1A	20	100	31.5	207,000.00
SRVV-0322	433093	1A	21	100	31.5	207,000.00
SRVV-0323	446883	1A	22	100	31.5	207,000.00
SRVV-0324	448131	1A	23	100	31.5	207,000.00
SRVV-0325	461555	1A	30	100	31.5	207,000.00
SRVV-0326	461556	1A	31	100	31.5	207,000.00
SRVV-0327	461557	1A	32	100	31.5	207,000.00
SRVV-0328	450075	1A	36	100	31.5	207,000.00
SRVV-0329	448113	1A	37	100	31.5	207,000.00
SRVV-0330	448277	1A	38	100	31.5	207,000.00
SRVV-0331	450076	1A	39	100	31.5	207,000.00
SRVV-0332	448114	1A	40	100	31.5	207,000.00
SRVV-0333	448426	1A	41	100	31.5	207,000.00
SRVV-0334	407402	1B	1	109	31.5	216,000.00
SRVV-0335	451680	1B	2	100	31.5	207,000.00
SRVV-0336	448116	1B	3	100	31.5	207,000.00
SRVV-0337	448427	1B	4	100	31.5	207,000.00
SRVV-0338	448428	1B	5	100	31.5	207,000.00
SRVV-0339	448429	1B	6	100	31.5	207,000.00
SRVV-0340	451

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2004

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The Widest Reaching Classifieds

RATES
P245 per column centimeter
P75 per line
(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

DEADLINES
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Mondays to Saturdays 12:00 noon Day before publication
Sundays 12:00 noon every Thursday

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 897-8425 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 897-8425
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5224406 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

PERSONAL

CONSULTING SERVICES

MIGRATION TO AUSTRALIA
ELPIDIO JNR. BAUTISTA
Registered Migration Agent
MARN 000 2606
Free Consultation
Working Skilled Family visa
email:elpidioj@tpg.com.au
Australia Tel/Fax: (612) 97235537
Phil.-Tel/Fax: (632) 951 0180

MEDICAL

PHYSICIAN/SURGEON

RAPID Tx VD-STD
Ex. SWEAT PIMPLES KELOID ALLERGY WARTS SKIN PEEL
15 Annapolis Greenhills
Call 7276124 - 25 9am-7pm

VDSTD Skin Clinic Rapid
Tx Comp Lab Tel. 8175071
Matrinco 2178 P. Tamo Makati

GARMA CLINIC
VD SPECIALIST
GONORRHEA, WARTS
SYPHILIS, HERPES, AIDS
ADULT CIRCUMCISION
VAGINAL REPAIR
SKIN DISEASES
COMPLETE LABORATORY
No. 8 Purdue St., Cubao, Q. C. back of Stella Maris College
OPEN 8 AM to 6 PM MON. to SAT.
Tel. 4392706 / 9139474

PERSONAL

CONSTRUCTION/ DESIGN

★LOT OWNERS★
No Downpayment - Hse Constn.
Min. P600K, M. Manila Area
Call 6438927 / 09173312287

MASSAGE

Body Massage, Facial, Foot Spa 534-4003 • 0919-3220871

02-3233269 Best Boys

AKHIN THAI MASGE - BAGUIO CEBU DAVAO MANILA #8347357

ASK JOHN MALE MASSEURS (0921)5364794

H'SOME ATHLETES 8327363

MALE MASSUER 8535399 DAN

MASSAGE 8545348 WARREN

★ Mr BODY PHYSIQUE ★ 11A Kamias QC 4350978

MSGE 09203448575 ANJO

THAI Msge Llc 0921-7569278

REFLEXOLOGY

BODYLAX
131 Roosevelt Ave 4144488

★FEELS GOOD 4127758★

I-spa Ctland 9 Mkt 8160151

•Wizard Massage 4213197•

HOUSEHOLD

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

A'A MAIDS & YAYA 4366920

ANGEL MAIDS 4213253

HI PAY MAID, YAYA 732-67-50

Direct Maid Yaya Cook 9057034

Direct Maid Yaya Boy 4384809

Good Maid Yaya Boy 7502197

Good Maids Yaya Boy 7572089

Help Agency 532-1947 • 532-8503

MAIDS w/ NBI Ref 4392490

NEED MAIDS 0915-5644777

PACIFIC: MAIDS, ETC SINCE 1948 T:7312672

BEST MAIDS 8250754

LIPAT BAHAY

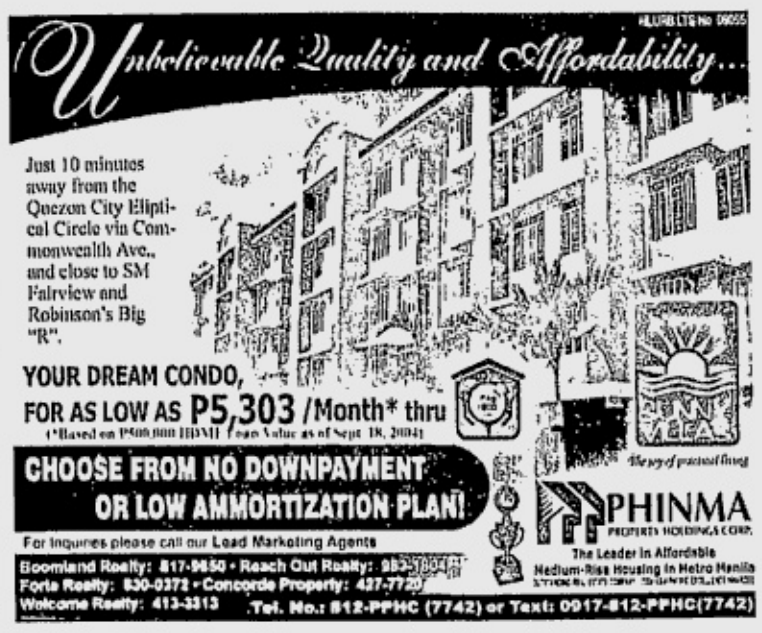
•731-6833•LIPAT

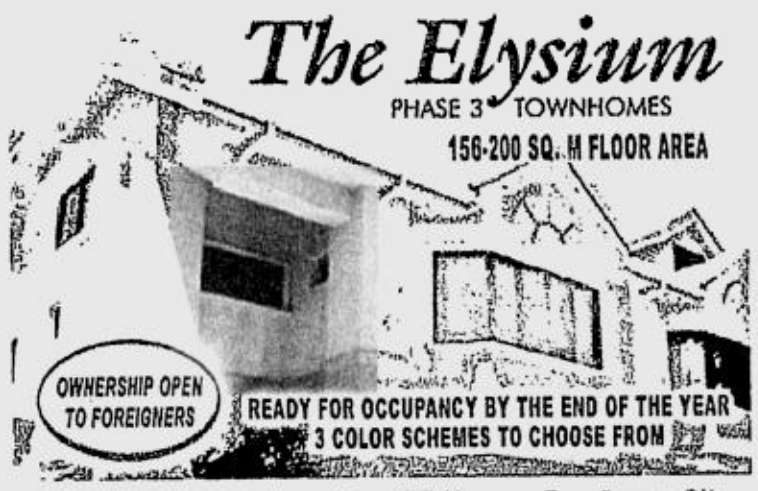
L-BAHAY 9206784 4540520

•CHEAP LBAHAY 9260424•

P1200/TRIP 742-14-57

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE





West End Aguirre Ave., Bgy. BF Homes, Parañaque City
Tel. Nos.: 825-4626, 820-6553, 0917-8471955
Email: phl-jpn@csdi-elysium.com
www.csdi-elysium.com

HOUSE & LOT

MAKATI

3BR Den 504SM Magallanes VIII Mkt T8685607/8

MANILA

SAMPALOC 161LA 6830877

MANDALUYONG

Ideal 4 Balikbayans Spacious New Hse FA-460m² Penthse Wack-Wack Golf View 724-8874

Sacrifice Sale - FATIMA 5322115 0917-8255123

QUEZON CITY

Sikatuna Vil. 5BR 4TB 2CARG 9210255 9219967 9220547

West Triangle 21T/m² 6830677

BULACAN

GROTTO AREA 225T 9390299

Near Grotto 650T 9390299

CAVITE

QUEENS ROW AREA-B BACOOR EDUARDO MANUEL 8873734

LAGUNA

BINAN RFO 400T 5201792

PASIG

15 min to MEGAMALL Greenhills 3BR 3TB 2CG Bnew units P3.3M only 10%DP to move-in Clubhouse, Pool, Gate & Fence Pls. call Lyn 0920-9616299

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

1.1M C5 Nr The Fort
10T/mo. or 4Yrs No Int. or 10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD 2-4BR 15min Fr Mkti 0917-8313226

•FORT BONIFACIO CONDOS 1,2,3br EasyTerms 4224906

•MAKATI GREENBELT CONDO 3br P16M up 10%dp 4224906

MALATE MANILA
BnewTwnhse/4stry/3br/3b/mds m/1-2grge/deck P3.41M up 8903451

RENT2OWN 9T/mo.
Condo nr. Mkti 0922-8086855

MANILA

INVESTMENT PROP - Nr UST 250 sqm 5 Drs 8M 6341212

Rent to Own Nr SM Center Point 110K Down Move In 2br 35K/mo 0918-9384927

Singalong Manila BnewTwnhse /3stry/3br/3b mad s 2grge P5M up 8903461 loc 34

PASIG

1.6M ORTIGAS AVE. RESORT-TYPE, 1st Class 2-4BR P13T/ mo. or NoDP or 0% Bess • 0917-5234223

CRISANTA TOWER 6341212

VVERDE 3BR 1.6M T9124323

QUEZON CITY

Eastwood Olympic Hts.1 46m² 21/Flr BrandNew 3.1M 721-77-76 or 0917-8966045

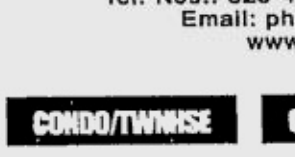
Luxurious Low 500T-12M Furn 9415641/0927-3925928

Proj.4 BNEW 3BR2TB 6830677

•QC Condo nr SM City P1.1M 2br 26m² P336T d/p 9126833

CONDO/TWNHSE

PASIG



QUEZON CITY

TEACHER'S VILL QC
Brandnew Mahabegin St
9132701 / 09189356366

VILLA FELICIDAD
117 14th Ave Cubao
Araneta Ctr QC
ALL CONCRETE 4-BR 3-T&B 1-CAR GARAGE w/ ROOF DECK BALCONY UNDERGROUND ELECTRIC WATER, CABLE & TEL. LINES
ONLY FEW UNITS LEFT
P3.3M ONLY
Bank & In-Hse Financing
Tel. 426-0531; 439-6921
437-0769; 426-6266

SAN JUAN

•Greenhills Condo P5.5M 3br 20% dp Bal 10yrs 9126833

LOT

MALABON

Tenjeros nr market 400m² @7,500T/m² 0917-8997547

MANILA

1129SM Apacible cor Agoncillo Ermita T8685608

MANDALUYONG

Lot Edsa 400m² 845-3731

CONDO/TWNHSE

PASIG

READY FOR OCCUPANCY
RESIDENTIAL UNITS FOR SALE OR LEASE TO OWN
1,2,3 BEDROOM AND PENTHOUSE AVAILABLE IN-HOUSE OR BANK FINANCING UP TO 10 YRS.
AGENTS/BROKERS ARE WELCOME
CALL:
910-0372 / 687-2363 / 631-3929
#15 J. ESCRIVA DRIVE, ORTIGAS, PASIG CITY
ASTORIA PLAZA

CAVITE

QUEZON CITY

LOYOLA GRAND VILLAS choice lots w/ view, Swedish & Finland St avble 426-5650, 929-1832 • 0919-6212235

Tierra Verde 400m²@7.5T/m² Cong. Ave Ext. 451m² @ 8T/m² DBO 0917-8997547 Jona

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

HOUSE

LAS PIÑAS

2BIG RM. 2TB C.GRGE DRTY KITCHEN P15T 8741072 THINY

QUEZON CITY

Tndng Sora 2sty 3BR3TB big grge P35T/mo. 2mos. advnce & 2 mos. dpot 0917-8997547

CONDO/TWNHSE

MANILA

BAYBRIDGE HOMES NR NAGTAHAN BRIDGE 9289541/7361925

ROBINSON FAURA 564-2622

CAVITE

QUEZON CITY

PHILAM HOMES FRNT EDSA QC Bldg 2 UNT 7 9289541 7361925

SAN JUAN

Ghills FF Stu P11T 929-9835

APARTMENT

MAKATI

1 level rm 9T SAV 8952026

PASAY

2BR Cuenca 8315026/5500254

QUEZON CITY

Commi acceptable business Internet cafe, comptr cntr, gen merchndse / Res apts bldg studio type accessible 2 all pts commi area standard size affordable grge outside but safe Call for an appointment 9254841 : 4356336

WAREHOUSE/ FACTORY

Near Buendia, Makati Warehouse
Concrete Warehouse with Office Space. 800 Sqm. Floor Area. P85.00/ Sqm / Month Tel. 823-9054/ 57
Ms. Corazon Cordova

ROOM & BOARD

120 MLA 7116679, 7836781

BF Pque 8275345,8257524

BEDSPACE

LDY Bedspace 1339 Quirino cor. Lanuza Paco T5636618 ; 09178938557

Male 1.5 Pasay 8315026

Mkti nr Ayala P1T Ldy 7257342

BUSINESS RENTAL

AYALA AVE 8161690/7506

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

BUSINESS RENTAL

BURGUNDY PLAZA KATIPUNAN Q.C. FRNT ATENEO FA103, 75 & 50 m² 9289541 / 7361925 IDEAL FOR SPA GYM CALL CENTER

LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% W/O TAKING CAR 3577523/24

BUSINES DOCTOR 524-3197

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

MAKATI

OFFICE SPACES FOR LEASE (58m²- 627m²) TEL #887-6003

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE/ FOR SALE/RENT

49SQM+12SQM PRKNG SPACE 2BR Call 5225997 / 0917-8142516 Babes Nazareno

OTHER REAL ESTATE

REALTORS/SEMINAR

BROKERS CEP 4362966

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

OTHER CAR BRANDS

Pajero Land Cruiser Surf Terrano Safari Rvr Sorena Delica Space Gear Estima Vanette Largo Elf Center T-In 9120647 / 09178342020

HONDA

00 Accord VTI a/t 575T 4267915

00 CRV m/t 560T 4361294

02 Civic VTI m/t 560T 9254508

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

CarsVans CoasterBus 422-9296

Cheap Van Rental 9330311

P600/L3 9136710 / 4333682

REVO w/driver 9272821

STAREX L300 CARS 726-8386

Toyco U Drive w/ Driver All Kinds Cars Van Revo Dly. Wk.Mo. Rental 8023021-22

ABC RENT A CAR
HI-ACE • STAREX L300 • CRV • REVO
HONDA • VIOS • ALTIS • LYNX • CRLA
MLA : 530-8822 • 303-0789
Q.C.: 426-2278 • 426-4084

CAR LOAN

1.5% Fast Car Loan 3577523/24

1.5% CAR LOAN 534-4441

1.5% CARLOAN 373-6519

1.5% CARLOAN 788-0361

1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48

1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6560140

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7226942-43

•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202•

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/o Taking Car 6316577

2% w/oTaking Car 6959454

2% w/oTaking Car 6870490/95

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

CAR LOAN

2% w/oTaking Car 6966530/33

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/out taking car 6567685

BILLIARDS

26T New Compil Sr Impld 7767507

BUY/SELL

College Plans 0917-7939632

CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL

RUSH SALE B-NEW G.E. CIRCUIT BREAKER 1.200AMPH 642-5188

PETS

160sqm 4br w/grge nr JPRizal 5.5M T-8958239

DOG TRAINER 0919-4666443

Dog Trainer 0919-2050952

•LAB PUPS• 09179987564• RUSH SALE! OWNER LEAVING

ROTTWEILER PUP W/PAPERS TEL 4008609 0919-2666391

BUYING ROLEX
Other WATCHES, BEST PRICE
0917-8142309 • 7269687
7220433 • 4123543

WANTED TO BUY

•PROFESSIONAL & CREDIBLE• LOW 5% INTEREST
BUY • SELL • PAWN
SWISS WATCHES
AGENCIA de MAKATI-4567017
SECONDO AYALA CENTER-8940282
OPEN MONDAY TO SATURDAY

WE BUY AT HIGH PRICE
ROLEX
5846593 5897041
5833742 0917-8473744

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

WANTED TO BUY

A NAME YOU CAN TRUST!
MANILA WATCH EXCHANGE
BUY • SELL • PAWN
ROLEX+OTHERS
& Other Swiss Watches
DIAMONDS / JEWELRY
HI-Appraisal/Fast Cash
Repair/Polish Any Watch,
T#804-0484 • 834-2686

MISCELLANEOUS

Restaurant Catering sale Shawarma Letsonan manok food-warmer low hipressure griller chefs table hood ice crusher bonesaw stnk fryer steamer griddle Tel. 9981170

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late GLORIA H. VILLAREAL who died on Nov. 23, 2003 at Quezon City has been extrajudicially settled between her heirs on Nov. 19, 2004 under Doc. No. 5500, Page No. 81, Book No. 476, series for 2004 by Notary Public for Quezon City, Jose L. Ma. Santos.
(PDI-November 24, December 1 & 8, 2004)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ALBERTO P. VALDESCONA has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs as per Doc. No. 162; Page No. 34; Book No. 1; Series of 2004 before notary public Atty. Gregorio Salazar of Quezon City
PDI-Dec. 1, 8 & 15, 2004

NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE is given that Passport w Visa issued to CHARITO TINIO was lost.
If found, pls call the owner @ 0921-7332029.
(PDI - December 8, 2004)

PERSONAL

Thank you HOLY SPIRIT
From Anselmo y Estacio Family

WANTED TO BUY

DEFECT TW/COMPO 7326865

UNDP

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Contracting of a Manufacturer / Supplier to Supply 60 units Multi-Purpose Boats *under the Project "Support Programme for the Management and Conservation of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (Project ID 00014503)"*

The Development Support Services Center (DSSC) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) would like to invite local and international shipbuilders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the procurement of sixty (60) units multi-purpose boats for the "Support Programme for the Management and Conservation of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (Project ID 00014503)".

The project aims to provide immediate and continuing assistance to the Philippine Government on sustainable coastal and marine resources management, particularly to achieve a more effective system of environmental governance, through strengthened multi-sector stakeholder participation, and delivery of environmental services, including monitoring and enforcement of existing laws on coastal resources.

One of the project requirements is the acquisition of sixty (60) units fiberglass motorized multi-purpose boats equipped with diesel engine, minor navigational and lifesaving accessories for multi-use in the enforcement of existing fishery laws and provision of livelihood demonstration projects, along the coastal waters. The boats will be awarded to recognized / organized / qualified Fisheries Resources Management Councils (FARMCS), reputable fishermen's associations and other concerned agencies.

The principal particulars of the multi-purpose boats, are as follows :

Length Overall (LOA)	:	28 ft. to 30 ft.
Length at Deckline	:	not less than 26.0 ft.
Breadth	:	not less than 6.5 ft.
Depth (approx.)	:	2.75 ft.
Draft loaded (approx.)	:	1.8 ft.
Main engine	:	Brand new inboard diesel engine, not less than 16 HP
Maximum trial speed	:	not less than 7.5 knots at light condition, calm weather, 4-6 engineers
Cruising speed	:	about 5 knots
Total maximum number of crew and passengers	:	15 passengers and 2 crew members

Bidding Documents (Requirements for Eligibility, Instructions to Bidders, Terms of Reference and Standard Conditions of Contract) may be secured personally, upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **Philippine Pesos Three Thousand (PhP 3,000.00)**, from the following address:

Development Support Services Center
United Nations Development Programme
30th Floor Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza
6819 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel. No. (632) 901 0273 / 901 0272
Fax No. (632) 901 0200

International suppliers are encouraged to appoint and authorize Philippine-based counterparts to secure the bidding documents and submit proposals for and in their behalf.

The abovementioned Bidding Documents will be released to all interested parties strictly from **December 8 to December 21, 2004 only.** The Bidding Documents shall contain all instructions on the rules, procedures, bid opening dates, and other schedules and requirements.

UNDP reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality therein, accept the bid and award the contract to the most advantageous offer to the UNDP based on UNDP criteria. UNDP assumes no obligation or responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that may be incurred for the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made for this Contract.

(Sgd) ETHELIND B. CAPUÑO
Manager, DSSC

(PDI--Dec. 7 & 8, 2004)

"And the time has come for my departure, I have finished the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."
2 Timothy 4:6-7

ELMER LOPEZ BUNTAG

Peacefully joined our Lord on December 06, 2004 at the age of 65.

His loving wife **GRACE**; children **MICHAEL, MARGARETH, MAUREEN & MARK**; son-in-law **REY**; granddaughter **MIRA**; sisters **SIS MARY ESTHER, PM, SIS MINVILUZ, BVMC**, and **BEBING**, parents-in-law **DOMINADOR** and **TECLA ALMAZAN** give thanks to the Lord for the blessing of his life.

His body lies in state at the church of **Jesus the Divine Heater Parish**, Tahanan Village, Parañaque City.

The funeral mass will be on Friday, December 10, 2004 at 9:30 a.m. and interment will follow immediately at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat Road, Parañaque City.

PILAR G. SANCHEZ

(former employee, PHILAMLIFE INS. CO.)

died in the Grace of our Lord on December 6, 2004 at the age of 82 at the Sherman Oak Hospital, L.A., California

From all of us she has left behind:

Domestic Partner	**Auring B. Bobis**
Sisters	**Melita S. Vda. de Regio**
	Chitang S. Rivera
Brother	**Chitong G. Sanchez**
Sisters-In-Law	**Muring Ortega**
	Amor Adonay
	Daisy La Madrid
Brother-In-Law	**Eddie S. Rivera**

Nephews, Nieces, Grandnephews, Grandnieces and other relatives request prayers for her eternal repose.

Interment will be held on Thursday, December 9, 2004 at the San Fernando Mission Catholic Cemetery, Los Angeles, California.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

1. Copy of Death Certificate;
2. Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments

"There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heaven..." Ecclesiastes 3:11

Our Dear Mamang

ANNIE BRINGAS PIZARRO

of Bangued, Abra and Quezon City

Born: September 17, 1923

Has joined her husband Amante Sr., former Meralco Chief Accountant and peacefully rests in the infinite warmth & embrace of our Lord on December 6, 2004 at the age of 81.

Her loving children **Amante Jr. (CPA) & Adette, Judge Normandie & Baby, Drs. Annette & Emil, Raul & Vicky, Ceasar, Ray & Cristie;** sister **Cristeta;** grandchildren and other relatives request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the Holy Trinity Chapel, Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

Interment will be on Friday, December 10, 2004, at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

MARCELINO KAGAOAN ALLAS

Born February 11, 1925

Died peacefully on November 20, 2004 in Lubbock, Texas

He is survived by his wife, **Lilia**; children, **Ester (Joji)** and Erlito Fider, **Malou** and Cezar Baula, **Joel** and Nenette, **Grace** and Andy Alcid, and **Jess**; and grandchildren, Karla, Ysabel, Bea, Guia, Kathryn, Chloe and Lenny.

He was buried in Lubbock on November 26, 2004. A memorial service will be held at Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati on Saturday, December 11, 2004 at 10 o' clock in the morning.

TRISTAN DE GUZMAN DE LA ROSA

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on December 6, 2004 at the age of 78.

His bereaved wife **Beatriz Bello**; children and children-in-law **Tristan & Marilyn de la Rosa, Jose & Cynthia de la Rosa, Madeleine & Juan Carlos Miguel, Glenda & Thomas Cleve**; grandchildren **Ana-Isabel & Raymond Joseph Whittingham, Marco-Gilberto Pedro-de la Rosa, Esther Floren de la Rosa,** and **Cindy Jo de la Rosa**; and other relatives and friends request the readers to join them in praying for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Chapel 3, Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

Interment will be on Saturday, December 11, 2004, at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City, immediately after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classifieds Advertising HOTLINES:

HEAD OFFICE
897-8808 loc. 514, 516
899-4425, 897-2535, 897-8425 (Telefax)

CUBAO
912-9008 to 11 (Aurora)

MAKATI
892-5578, 811-4361, 811-4370

KALAW
522-4406, 527-3342

MEGAMALL
635-0219, 635-0220

FR. EDWARD VAN GROENENDAEL, S.J.

Was called home to the Lord on Tuesday, 7 December 2004.

Wake: Chapel of St. Ignatius, Jesuit Retreat House, Impalambong, Malaybalay City
Daily Mass at 8:00 p.m.

Funeral Mass: at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, 11 December 2004 in San Isidro Labrador Cathedral, Malaybalay City.

Interment: Shepherds' Meadow, Malaybalay City immediately after the Funeral Mass.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF HIS SOUL.

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

Matthew 10:39

CLASSIFIEDS

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Central Regional Office Luzon Office
Cabanatuan City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID FOR INTEGRATED CARGO HANDLING SERVICES FOR NFA REGION III

The National Food Authority, NFA Central Luzon Regional Office, Cabanatuan City invites interested Integrated Cargo Handling Services Contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the provision of Integrated Cargo Handling Services in the discharging of 102,250 MT of NFA imported grains and USPL 480 of 44,000 MT, more or less from foreign vessels at Subic Ports with an approved budget for the Contract (ABC) of P38,699,837.46.

The scope of works to be bid for said integrated services include Arrastre, Stevedoring, Wharfage, Hustling, Truckscaling, Opening/Closing of Hatches, Import Entry documentation, and other Port Services.

The application for eligibility and pertinent bidding documents can be secured from NFA-CLRO, Cabanatuan City, Regional Bids and Awards Committee (RBAC) Secretariat upon payment of a non-refundable application fee of P2,000.00 and submission of a certified photocopy each of the following documents:

1) DTI business name registration, CDA Registration and/or SEC registration certificate, whichever may be appropriate;
2) Mayor's Permit (CY 2004) and Official Receipt;
3) Current registration certificate as cargo handler with SBMA;
4) Current Permit To Operate (PTO) issued by SBMA;
5) Certificate of good standing with SBMA;
6) Certification of at least three (3) years experience in grains (in bags) cargo handling/unloading (pierside) for the past three (3) years issued by PPA or SBMA (Original copy to be submitted)

The bidding of Integrated Services shall be conducted at NFA-CLRO, Conference Room, Cabanatuan City on the following schedule:

PARTICULARS	DATE	TIME
1. Issuance of Bid Application and Bid Documents	December 8-20, 2004	8:00 AM-5:00 PM
2. Pre-Bidding Conference	December 22, 2004	2:00 PM
3. Submission and Opening of Bids	January 14, 2005	10:00 AM

The bidding shall be governed by RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations. For further inquiries, please contact the RBAC Chairman or Secretariat at NFA-CLRO, Cabanatuan City with Telephone Nos. (044)-463-1167, (044)-463-1168 and (044)-463-1233.

THE NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS THEREOF, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITIES OR DEFECTS FOUND THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS OR TO AWARD TO ANY CONTRACTOR WHOSE BID IS CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NFA OR TO THE GOVERNMENT.

(Sgd.) **RUBEN J. RESIDE**
RBAC Chairman
Asst. Regional Director

(PDI–Dec 8 & 10 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
Province of Maguindanao
MUNICIPALITY OF DATU ODIN SINSUAT

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION AND TO BID

Date: December 8, 2004
Contract No. 009 – 004 BM
Loan No. 1843 PHI

1. The Municipality of Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao Philippines has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank, hereinafter referred to as ADB, thru the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) under the Mindanao Basic Urban Services Sector Project (MBUSSP) of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) towards the cost of the Construction of Datu Odin Sinsuat Public Market and intends to apply a portion of this loan to eligible payment under the Contract for which the Invitation for Prequalification and to Bid is issued.
2. The Municipality of Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao, Philippines hereinafter referred to as *"the Employer"*, intends to prequalify contractors for the following works under this project:
   a.) Architectural
   b.) Structural
   c.) Sanitary and Plumbing
   d.) Electrical and Mechanical Works
   e.) Site Development (landscaping, Parking Space, Drainage System, etc.)
3. It is expected that the invitation to bid will be made on February 9, 2005.
4. Prequalification is open to firms and voluntarily formed joint ventures from eligible member countries of ADB (Applications may be made for prequalification for the above contract).
5. Eligible Applicants may obtain the prequalification documents from Mr. Pared A. Blah by calling Tel. No. (064) 486 – 0125 or by writing, faxing, or telexing *The Secretariat, Bids and Awards Committee, c/o Mr. Pared A. Blah, Municipal Hall, Dalican, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao, Philippines through fax no. (064) 486-0125.*
6. The request must clearly state: "Request for Prequalification for the Construction of Datu Odin Sinsuat Public Market." The documents are available for a nonrefundable fee of **Seven-Thousand, Five-Hundred Pesos (Php7,500.00)** only, and to be paid to the Municipal Treasurer. The Employer will promptly dispatch the documents by registered mail, but under no circumstances will it be held responsible for the late delivery or loss of the documents so mailed.
7. Submission of Applications for Prequalification must be received in sealed envelopes, which must be delivered either by hand or by registered mail, to:

   The Secretariat
   c/o Mr. Pared A. Blah
   Bids and Awards Committee
   Municipal Hall, Dalican, Datu Odin Sinsuat
   Maguindanao, Philippines

   Not later than: January 7, 2005, 2:00 p.m. at Datu Odin Sinsuat, Municipal Hall, and be clearly marked "Application to Prequalify for the Construction of Datu Odin Sinsuat Public Market."
8. The Employer reserves the right to accept or reject late applications.
9. Application will be advised, in due course, of the results of their applications. Only firms and joint ventures prequalified under this procedure will be invited to bid.

(Sgd.) ENGR. ALADDIN B. ABDULA
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–December 8, 2004)

GIA®

Thailand Campus

Learn the principles of quality Jewelry Design from the world's #1 gemological institute

Jewelry Design Class

Step-by-Step, develop skills needed to create and illustrate designs for a variety of jewelry in full color and fine detail

NO artistic training or experience required

Jewelry Design Class starts March 21, 2005

GIA Thailand Campus

Bisco Tower-12th Flr., 56/12 Sub Rd., Bangrak, Bangkok Thailand.
Tel: (662) 237-9575 / 77 Fax: (662) 236-9829
giathai@ksc.th.com www.giathailand.com

INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS

Mandaluyong branch is open to serve your Classified Ads requirements.

MANDALUYONG BRANCH
SM MEGAMALL
5TH LEVEL, BLDG. B, EDSA
TEL. NO.: 635-0219 / 637-2008
Contact Persons
Joy, Arnold, Randy & Amel

Restaurant Business for Sale

Fully Furnished within Intramuros
Near Letran, Lyceum, PLM, and Mapua

Excellent Business Opportunity
For inquiries, please call or text

Gerardo Cornejo - 0918-9351615

CBM INTERNATIONAL MANPOWER SVCS., INC.
POEA Lic. No. 057-LB-022703-R-R
1000 Jorge Bocobo Street, Ermita, Manila
Tel. No. 5246388/4843635

GOOD SALARY & BENEFITS FOR QUALIFIED CANDIDATES

AL-HAIDER COMPANY
Rahima Ras Tanura, K.S.A

SR. PLANT MECHANIC
- Candidates must have at least 10 years actual experience in process industry or thermal power plant;
- Shall be able to use all types of mechanical equipments be able to perform repair & overhauling of all types of equipment installed at Boiler & auxiliary plant;
- Can fabricate boiler tube bends using hand operated bending fixtures;
- Shall be able to perform flame heating for fabrication, disassembly & reassembly processes.

CRANE OPERATOR
- Candidates must have at least 7 years actual experience;
- Driver's License Code must be 2, 3, 8;
- Must be Ex-Saudi

Candidates must report immediately with 2 sets of resumé, passport & employment cert., to the above address:

FOR MANPOWER POOLING ONLY
NO FEES TO BE COLLECTED
BEWARE OF ILLEGAL RECRUITERS

WHERE YOU FIND THE BEST.

JOBMARKET ONLINE

Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer and visit it online at www.jobmarketonline.com

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 897-8425 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 8978425
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 522-4406 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

OBITUARIES

"The newest and most modern Funeral Home & Crematory in the country!
Trunk Line: (632) 845-2334 to 38
Direct Line: (632) 845-2440

THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF ORIENTAL MINDORO

announces with deep sorrow the demise of

GOVERNOR BARTOLOME LAYA MARASIGAN, SR.

who passed away last December 1, 2004 at the age of 67.

Governor Arnan C. Panaligan, **Vice Governor Ma. Estela Felipa M. Aceron**, Members of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, Provincial Government of Oriental Mindoro Department Heads and Employees would like to extend their deepest condolences to his family and request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Alfonso Umali Gymnasium in Jose J. Leido, Jr. Memorial National High School, Calapan City until December 8, 2004.

Interment will be on December 9, 2004 at 12:00 noon at Calapan Memorial Ground, Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro.

AMANDO VALDEHUESA CASIÑO, M.D.

of Tagoloan, Mis. Or. & Iligan City
(U.P. Class 1941)

Peacefully joined our Lord and his beloved wife ***Emilia Borja Casiño*** *on December 3, 2004 at the age of 90.*

His son **Ralph** and daughter-in-law **Noemi**, and grandchildren **Amanda**, **Jonathan** and **Kina**; and relatives especially **Maritess Borja**, give thanks to the Lord for the blessing of his life and request the readers to join them in prayers for his eternal happiness in heaven.

Interment is on December 9, 2004 at the Maria Cristina Memorial Gardens, Iligan City at 8:30 a.m.

In celebration of the first year of eternal life of our loving daughter, sister, niece, cousin and friend,

Deanna Regalado Buncio
April 10, 1971 – December 8, 2003

the following masses will be celebrated on December 8, 2004, Wednesday

- Immaculate Conception Cathedral Parish • Lentana, Cubao, Quezon City • 6:00 am and 7:00 am
- St. Paul the Apostle Church • 14085 Peyton Drive, Chino Hills California, USA • 8:00 am
- St. Philomena Church • 21900 Main St., Carson California, USA • 8:00 am
- Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene • Quiapo, Manila • 8:00 am
- Parish of the Holy Sacrifice • University of the Philippines Diliman, Quezon City • 12:00 pm
- Queen of the Victories Church • Betty Belmonte Rd., Bgy. Mariana, Quezon City • 6:00 pm

and her generous commitment to the UP Integrated School Scholarship Fund will be carried on.

Those who wish to join these celebrations may call Nonoy Buncio at 0919-5884599

"Let the words of my mouth meet your Favor, keep the thoughts of my heart before you, Lord, my rock, my redeemer..."
— Psalm 21:15

DR. JOSE SASON ZAPANTA, D.M.D.

of San Fernando, Pampanga

Died in the Grace of our Lord on December 6, 2004 at the age of 77.

His bereaved wife **Adela Zapanta**; children **Ferdinand & Amy Sigua, Ma. Therese & Dr. Jude Verzosa**; brother & sister, grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Cabral's residence at #21 Parian, Mexico, Pampanga.

Interment will be on Thursday, December 9, 2004 at the Mexico Catholic Cemetery after the 3:00 p.m. Mass at the Sta. Monica Parish Church.

We Lovingly Remember
on Her 5th year in Eternal Life

Dra. Ma. Susan "Tuts" Malabanan – Lasa

July 11, 1958 – December 8, 1999
U.P. Medicine 1983
of Batangas City

Her parents, **Dr. Ernesto H. Malabanan** and **Dra. Simplicia Diego**; Husband, **Dr. Carlos Lasa**; Children, **Carlo** and **Christopher**; Sister, **Sheila** and **Kaymen Keh** and their children **Ernestine "Tintin"** and **Kenneth**; Brothers, **Ernesto Malabanan, Jr.** and his children, **Shirley** and **Sarah Jane**; **Dr. Emmanuel Malabanan, Engr. Edgar** and **Bella Malabanan** and their children, **Edd Bryan** and **Edd Brandon**; **Atty. Edwin** and **Ethel Malabanan** and their son, **Ernesto "Vito" III** request the pious readers to join them in prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

PLDT
BUSINESS
SOLUTIONS

Innovating Technology. Initiating Trends. Inspiring Trust.

Introducing the new PLDT Business Solutions.

It's a commitment to create possibilities and initiate movements,
to ignite new ideas that will bring forth development to your business,
just so we can prove we are a company you can trust.

As symbolized by a sharp, dynamic and unending stroke,
we offer an infinite and all-encompassing array of solutions.
It's a boundless pledge of service, an endless search for answers.
It has a beginning, but it never ends.

That's what makes us different.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2004

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MOTORING

E-mail: pr_motoring@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

Text us your feedback: inquirer mtr name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

BMW 1 series' side profile

This 'One' tugs hatchbacks to higher levels

By Tessa R. Salazar

THE ONE is here. No, it's not Neo, and we're not in some make believe reality of "The Matrix."

The One, or simply the "1" series from BMW, is as real as any hatchback gets, and it signifies BMW's real intentions of being the cream of the crop, the ultimate carmaker, the No. 1 in the world in all segments by 2008.

Biggest growing market

To execute that, however, BMW needs to speed things up a bit in terms of production. Through market investigation, BMW discovered that the biggest growing market in the world between 2002 and projected through 2014—a market that would expand up to 80 percent—is the premium small cars.

And, as markets go, premium small cars are the preferred vehicles of the younger set. Thus, BMW wants to bring in younger people to its fold—logically the future of the automotive market. To lure the younger set, BMW designed its 1 series. And just recently, BMW Philippines invited 12 motoring journalists to the Subic racetrack to unveil its first hatchback with rear wheel drive.

The 1 series may be a niche market in the Philippines but in Europe it is designed for a growing segment. It will not be BMW's biggest bestseller. That distinction still belongs to its 3-series, but BMW sees the 1 to be "very important" worldwide, where the average age of drivers is getting younger.

TAKE a peek at the One's rear view

At first glance, BMW 1 Series looks like a lot of thought and hard work had been put into it. With its dynamic lines, the hatchback looks in motion even at a standstill.

It carries BMW's typical proportions—a long wheelbase (the longest wheelbase of its class at 2.88 meters) for stability and driving pleasure and a short body overhang that ensures the car will react and respond instantly to the driver's input behind the wheel.

BMW 1 Series boasts of a drag coefficient of .29 and is being flaunted as having the best possible aerodynamic design in the compact class.

Optional packages

The trunk volume looks apt. The driver can even personalize the car. One can customize the car with optional packages like sport, executive, tech and individual. It is also equipped with bluetooth technology and keyless entry. BMW stresses that these features are normally reserved for cars of much higher values.

Another function notable in the 1 Series is the MP3 connection. Those with Ipods can hook up their system through the car. A hi-fi professional sound system does wonders to enhance the driving experience. Its xenon headlights come with double rings.

'Neutral' car

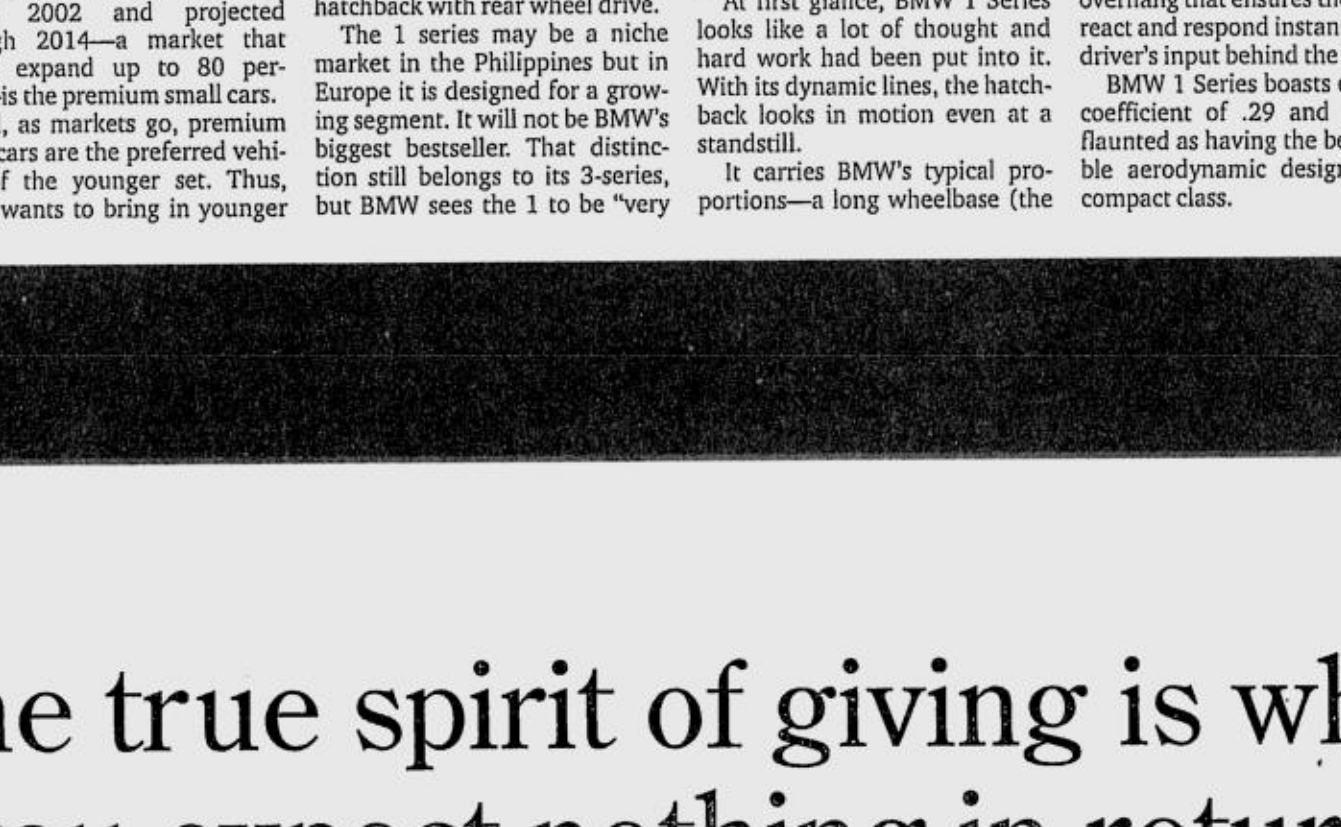
Its 50-50 weight distribution (front and rear) guarantees a "neutral" car. This even distribution of axle load makes the 1 Series react to sudden changes of direction with smoothness and stability.

The full front suspension is made of aluminum, the rear of steel. The front axle is designed in a double-joint tension rod spring

THIS/ C2

Ford
No Boundaries

The true spirit of giving is when you expect nothing in return.



Thank you for choosing the Lynx. Thank you for choosing the Escape. Allow us to show our appreciation by giving you the chance to get your payment back.
If you buy any of these vehicles before December 30, you'll be given raffle tickets that could win you back your vehicle's full purchase price!
There will be one winner each from among the Escape buyers and the Lynx buyers. The more generous you are with your choice of vehicle, the more tickets you receive, the more chances of getting back the blessings!

Coupon Table			
Lynx GSi	3 coupons	Escape 2.3L	10 coupons
Lynx Ghia	5 coupons	Escape 3.0L	15 coupons
Lynx RS	8 coupons		

Plus 0% Interest* plans on all Escape and Lynx models.

*Applies to 50% DP 12-month scheme. See flyers for details. Per BIR Permit No. [illegible], Series of 2004

www.ford.com.ph

• Ford Alabang, Trunk Lines: 842-3681 / 842-4628; Fax No.: 807-4430 • Ford Balintawak, Trunk Line: 927-9648; Fax No.: 927-5981 • Ford Commonwealth, Tel Nos.: 952-9118, 952-9441; 952-9446 Fax No. 952-9440 • Ford EDSA, Tel No.: 744-2222, Fax No. 723-6311 • Ford EDSA Service Center Tel No.: 723-7029 • Ford Libis, Trunk Line: 637-2044, Fax No.: 637-6008 • Ford Makati, Trunk Line 818-5555, Fax No 815-0513 • Ford Manila, Tel No 562-5555 Fax No 562-8985 • Ford Quezon Avenue, Tel Nos.: 731-7617 , 742-3435 / 742-3436 Fax. 742-3451 • Ford Shaw Blvd., Trunk Line 717-0888, Telefax. 717-1350 • Ford Pampanga, Trunk Line: (045) 961-2888, Fax Nos. (045) 963-5205 / 961-2277 • Ford Cabanatuan, Tel. No. (044) 464-0111, Fax No (044) 600-4200 • Ford Dagupan, Tel No. (075) 522-2222, Telefax (075) 515-5520 • Ford San Pablo, Tel No. (049) 562-9186, Telefax (049) 562 8324 • Ford Cavite, Tel No. (046) 472-2040, Fax. (046) 472-2048 • Ford Cebu, Trunk Line: (032) 231-9180, Fax No. (032) 231-9023 • Ford Bacolod, Tel No. (034) 432-2151, Telefax (034) 434-2877 • Ford Iloilo, Tel No (033) 321 3352, Telefax No. (033) 321-3351 • Ford Cagayan de Oro, Tel Nos. (088) 855-8811, Telefax. (088) 855-8877 • Ford Davao, Tel No. (082) 234-1111, Fax No. (082) 234-2222

FORD Philippines now offers a complete lineup of SUVs catering to different market segments.

EDDIE BAUER TRIMS LAUNCHED

Ford Philippines completes SUV lineup

Text and photos by Charles E. Buban

IN ITS 84-year history, Eddie Bauer has evolved from a single store in downtown Seattle to a trichannel company with more than 600 stores in the United States, Canada, Germany and Japan, 100 million catalogues and online websites.

The company is known for its outdoor-inspired casual wear brand offering distinctive clothing, accessories and home furnishings for men and women that reflect a modern interpretation of the company's unique outdoor heritage.

So, what has Eddie Bauer got to do with the vehicles of Ford Motor Co.?

Looking at the company's historical timeline, it was in 1983 when Eddie Bauer began its partnership with Ford to produce Eddie Bauer Edition Ford vehicles.

Started in 1984

"The first Eddie Bauer Edition Ford rolls off the assembly line in 1984 and since then, this model trim has combined premium luxury appointments to satisfy Ford buyers who are always wanting more," revealed Ford Philippines president Henry Co before he bade goodbye to the media group that went to Punta Fuego (in Nasugbu, Batangas) to test drive the 2005 Eddie Bauer model trims of the Explorer and Expedition.

The two new premium models complete and strengthen Ford's lineup of SUVs on the Philippine market.

Said Co: "The 2005 Eddie Bauer model trims of the Explorer and Expedition are testament to the company's continued growth and presence in the country since it started operations way back in 1997. They signal that we are here to stay as the top choice for many Filipinos."

THE 2005 4x4 EXPLORER, left, and Expedition Eddie Bauer model trims will appeal to Ford SUV buyers.

Superb appointments

Just like the Eddie Bauer company creed that states: "To give (customers) such outstanding quality, value, service and guarantee that we may be worthy of (their) high esteem," the two new Explorer and Expedition trims carried superb appointments to separate them from the other model trims.

The 2005 4x4 Expedition Eddie Bauer is powered by a 5.4-liter single overhead cam Triton V8 engine (compared to the 4.6-liter SOHC Triton V8 Engine of the XLT 4x2 model trim), a 4-wheel drive Control Trac System (shift-on-the-fly), and a 4-speed automatic transmission with overdrive.

The P2.795-million full-size SUV's notable features include a Powerfold third row seat, second row Centerslide seat, a 17-inch machined-aluminum wheels, Quad-bean headlamps, Arizona-beige lower-body side moldings, wheel-lip moldings and bumpers.

The latest Expedition comes in oxford white, medium wedgewood blue, estate green and black hues.

4-liter engine

The 2005 4x4 Explorer Eddie Bauer, on the other hand, is powered by a 4-liter SOHC sequential electronic fuel injection 12-V V6 engine, a similar 4-wheel drive Control Trac System (shift-on-the-fly), and a 5-speed automatic transmission with overdrive.

"Since its introduction in 1990, the Ford Explorer has changed the face of the SUV market here in the Philippines: it has proven that rugged, truck-like functionality and off-road durability could be combined with style, luxury and comfort," said Co.

Safety and functionality have been the hallmarks of the Ford Explorer.

Co revealed the mid-size SUV was named America's "Most Trusted SUV" for 12 years, Best Pick by the US Insurance Institute for Highway Safety and Best-In-Class for front crash-test performance by the US National Highway Safety Administration.

Best-selling SUV

"These recognitions are the reasons Ford Explorer has remained America's best-selling SUV for 13 years and has inspired Ford to be always a step ahead in providing its customers what they want in an SUV in terms of power, safety and comfort," he said.

To readily identify the 2005 4x4 Explorer Eddie Bauer, the SUV features a 17-inch Sparkle silver-painted cast-aluminum wheels fitted with all-terrain tires, Pueblo Gold two-tone exterior accents, stain-nickle grille, and heated side-view mirrors.

The P2.295-million Explorer comes in dark stone metallic, red fire metallic, oxford white and black.

Online bidding of vanity license plates mounted for LTO

BAYANTRADE—the region's premier sourcing, procurement and supply chain services provider—will enable the online bidding of 63 limited edition vanity license plates (VLP), which are expected to earn for the Land Transportation Office (LTO) a minimum of P3.15 million.

The bidding project, which will be conducted from Nov. 24 to Dec. 9, will be jointly undertaken by BayanTrade with Digital Paradise Inc., the owner of more than 120 Netopia Internet Cafés nationwide and Stradcom Corp., which manages the computerization of the LTO's operations and processes.

Electronic bidding

Under the agreement, BayanTrade will provide LTO and bid participants access to its leading electronic bidding facility. The system is one of the foremost e-Sourcing technologies on the market which provides real-time, transparent and dynamic price movement of every bid event.

It is hosted in a premier data center, which ensures the reliability, availability and security of the data and connectivity. It is also web-based, which allows bid participants to submit and resubmit bids anytime, anywhere.

Through this facility, BayanTrade will structure the bid with qualified bidders being given a password-protected username, which they will use to bid for a maximum of five vanity license plates each, as stipulated in the LTO's requirements. Bids will begin at P50,000 for each plate and can move up at a minimum increment of P2,000 with a provision that ensures there will be no tied bids. Tomorrow, closing of the bids for the 63 plates will be staggered where lots of four to six plates will close every 45 minutes.

Training sessions

BayanTrade will also provide training sessions to LTO, Stradcom and Netopia on how to support bid participants when they submit and view their own set of posted bids.

Training will also be given to a select group of LTO personnel on how to monitor the ongoing bid event, focusing on participation, trends and leading bidders.

Wider access

According to BayanTrade's president and COO Dante M. Briones, online bidding can benefit both the LTO and its bidders as this will promote wider access for bidders, transparency of the bidding process and potentially generate higher revenues for the LTO.

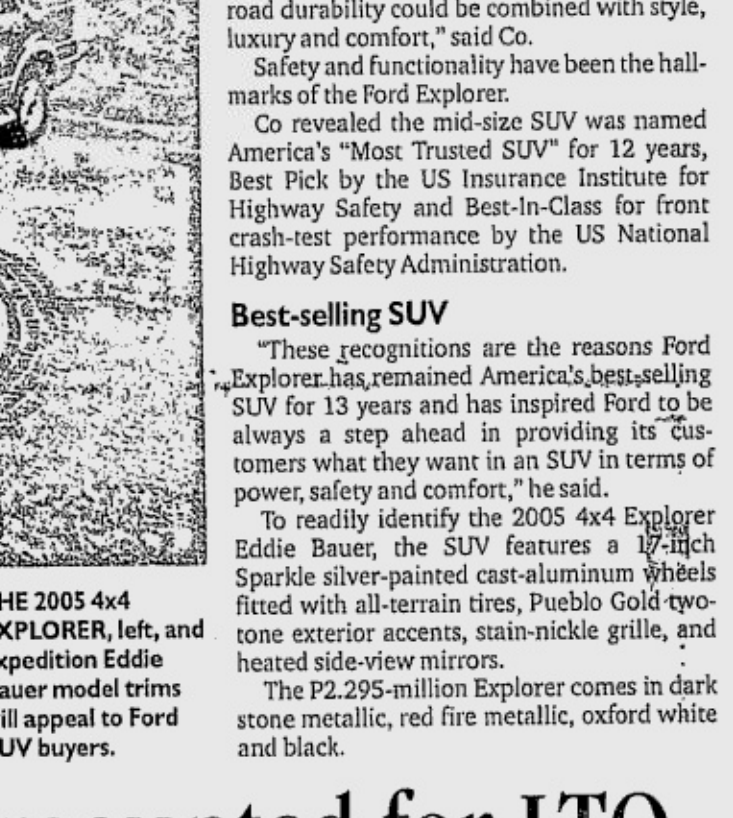
Briones said the online bidding will make it more convenient for bidders since they can participate in the comfort of their own homes or at a Netopia branch near them, which allows even bidders in the provinces to take part in the bid process. It also assures bidders of transparency since they will be able to view competitive bids while still remaining confidential through generic usernames assigned to each of them to protect their identities.

Online bidding also benefits the LTO, which wants to see a spike in the number of bidders who will participate in the agency's revenue-generating venture.

Vanity plates

A total of 105 limited edition vanity license plates were up for auction since September. Of these, 42 were sold during an initial manual auction, which leaves 63 pieces of limited edition VLP for the online public bidding.

The vanity plates consist of four to six identical characters, either letters or numerals, which are up for bid at a base price of P50,000 each, are exempted from the government's color-coding scheme or unified vehicle volume reduction program (UVVRP).



This 'One' tugs hatchbacks to higher levels

From page C1

strut suspension featuring a stabilizer bar, meaning it exhibits the stiffness needed as the car performs. Why is the rear not made of aluminum? 1 Series makers say the car needs the weight in the rear to guarantee the 50-50 weight distribution (and to neutralize the engine weight up front). The newly developed five-link rear suspension has straight rod-shaped and short lever arms and a stiff structure, the lightweight steel construction enables a particular accurate wheel guidance.

The four-cylinder 1 Series is available from 85 kW (115bhp) for the BMW 116i to 110kW (150bhp) for the BMW 120i. The 120I features valvetronic fully variable valve control. Both the variants have double vanos variable camshaft control boasting supreme acceleration in upper speed ranges and for optimized fuel economy when partially loaded.

It has 16-inch wheels equipped with standard run-flat tires. And because of this, the makers find no use for a spare tire. The 17-inch wheels are also available for sports suspension models. BMW Philippines is also providing 18-inch wheels for those who love it even bigger.

Tests

At the tracks for the slalom and moose tests, the BMW 1 series revealed its handling capabilities.

The 1 Series unit this writer used—a 116i—was not yet equipped with the sports suspension. While driving it, the stiffness was not evident but the car already handled well, particularly at the slalom test.

The moose test—an evasive mode test—was performed next. The evasive mode is when you don't step on the brakes but you just suddenly swerve to your left or right at 60 to 70 kph (a professional race car driver even swerved at 100 kph). This test simulates a situation in country roads when a big animal (in Western countries, a moose) suddenly crosses the road and tests how the driver avoids it without skidding or falling off the road.

At the speed that this writer went—at 70 kph—the 116i proved very controllable. Try that in another car and chances are you'll spin and face where you came from, not a very good view when you're being tailgated by another car in a public road.

After the track run, this writer surmised that it was, indeed, an ideal everyday car that would still appeal to a specific niche market. With its price and limited production, the 1 Series, after all, is not intended for everyone.

Speaking of interior roominess, the car can also accommodate up to five adults. The 1, though, is not really meant for heavy loads, and though it holds its own in the rough roads, it runs best on highways and city roads.

BMW confirms that it is "stretching the brand downward." But, it says, it would not imperil any of its brand values. In fact, next year BMW promises to introduce what it calls a "fabulous" 3-Series complementary to the 1 series.

Targets

BMW says it targets the single, 26 to 35 age range (male and female) with sizable incomes. The 1 Series also targets young couples, specifically well-traveled ones, who enjoy the perks of a dual income and who have a common passion and zest in life. It represents the practicality of an everyday car but also allows for an expression of individuality and indulges its owners to the passion of driving.

For those who have P1.5 to P2.1 million to spare, and who would want a European hatch on the garage and to show off at parties, this is the One.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Diesel

By Andre Palma

COMMENTARY

THE IMAGE conjured up by diesel engines is of decrepit public utility vehicles, accelerating out of MMDA-approved transport stops, cutting three lanes to the left, and covering the entire roadway with an acrid black cloud that would leave members of Her Majesty's Secret Service with smoke screen envy. Diesel is perceived as the fuel of the masses. It is cheaper than gasoline, so it must be inferior.

In the process of refining, isn't diesel the stuff at the bottom of the distillation tank, while the good stuff, like cream, floats to the top? Performance must therefore solely be the realm of gasoline-powered engines. I mean, how can it be anything else but gospel truth, as red Italian sports cars and their nth time World Champion endorser clutter the billboards of our highways and fill our minds with the their petroleum propaganda? Gasoline is admittedly the more glamorous of the two fuels, but is it necessarily superior to diesel?

Alternative to gas engines

We have to put the humble diesel engine into perspective. Rudolf Diesel, in 1892, was able to patent the idea for running a more efficient alternative to the gasoline engines of the time and it hinged on the use of an alternative fuel. His namesake fuel packs more energy than gasoline. In BTUs (British Thermal Units, or the amount of heat energy required to raise the temperature of one pound of water by one degree Fahrenheit), one gallon (3.8 liters) of diesel has, on average 147,000 BTUs. Since this measurement is in energy, this can

DIESEL/ C4

'STILL EXPERIENCING MILEAGE PROBLEMS?
Gear-up your fuel mileage now!
SAVE FUEL
Super FUELMAX®
International Research & Development
Increases fuel span • Controls pollution
Saves money • Tested Worldwide & by U.S. EPA Accepted Laboratory
Super FuelMax is a magnetic frequency resonator that has produced an average of 27% increase in fuel mileage.
Thousands of Satisfied Customers!
TAP MAX PRODUCTS™ PHILIPPINES
Unit A-115 Hillcrest Cond., 1616 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City Philippines
Tel. Nos.: 722-1831, 726-8647 • Fax No.: (632) 721-7491 • Cell. No.: (0917) 835-1945 • E-mail: bscor@skyinet.net

1866 1866 1941 1954 1965
2001 1969
2001 1983
2001 1991
2000 1998 1997 1994
Valvoline
World's First, World's Finest
Since 1866
VALVOLINE PHILIPPINES
22 Tandang Sora Ave., Quezon City
Fax No.: (632) 984-4413
For Dealership Inquiries, Call:
(632) 984-8075 to 77

CHRISTMAS VALUE
We can't think of a better way to say "MERRY CHRISTMAS" than to save you money on preventive maintenance or needed repairs.
OIL & FILTER CHANGE SPECIAL
REPLACE: Oil, Oil Filter & Tire Rotation
TOP UPS : Battery Fluid, Windshield Washer, Radiator Fluid & Clutch/Brake Fluid
INSPECT : Hoses, Belts, Bulbs, Wiper, Blades, Battery System, Tires, Fuel Filter, Air Filter & Safety Inspection
FOR GASOLINE ENGINES ₱599 only (Up to 5 liters Oil)
FOR DIESEL ENGINES ₱1,099 only (Up to 7 liters Oil)
Most passenger cars and light trucks. Coupon must be presented at time of purchase. Offer not valid with any other sales promotion or discounts for the same service. Offer valid until December 31, 2004. Valid at any Rapide branch.
TIRES 4 LESS Available on LEADING BRANDS
165/65 R13 P1,475.00 | 205/70 R14 P2,245.00
185/60 R14 P2,025.00 | 195/65 R15 P2,445.00
185/65 R14 P2,175.00 | 205/60 R15 P2,550.00
FREE Mounting, Tire Rotation & Wheel Balancing with every tire purchase.
* Promo valid until December 31, 2004.
BATTERIES ₱200 OFF on ACDelco BATTERIES
BRAKE SPECIAL 25% OFF on Pads/Shoes LIFETIME BRAKE WARRANTY
* INCLUDES FREE SAFETY INSPECTION
* Promo valid until Dec. 31, 2004
FAN BELT SPECIAL ₱1,499 only
Includes: • Aircon Belt • Power Steering Belt • Alternator Belt
* INCLUDES FREE SAFETY INSPECTION
* Promo valid until Dec. 31, 2004
CUT AD & PRESENT COUPON WHEN AVAILING PROMO
Rapide
AUTO SERVICE EXPERTS
Available for FRANCHISING & accepting applications for FLEET ACCOUNTS.
HOTLINE NOS. 899-1966 / 899-4472 OR 74.
NOBODY BEATS Rapide NOBODY!

Passion
Our promise.

Toyota has learned from the roads of the world. And that's why we can make our promise.
The roads of the world are many and varied. So are the world's voices when it comes to the vehicle. There are just so many different ways people live with it. And sometimes these voices have contradictory demands, making it difficult to build what they ask for. But now Toyota has made it possible with no compromises. The aim was to satisfy the wishes of all. Only those who truly know the roads of the whole world can gain the approval of the whole world. Toyota's promise of total renewal — given shape in a new, global-quality vehicle. It's now ready for you to enjoy.
GLOBAL QUALITY PROJECT

Getting high on Hi-Lux

FULL TANK

Al Mendoza

IT WAS a big thrill watching the unveiling of the all-new Toyota Hi-Lux on Saturday at the famous The Fontana in Clark, Angeles City, Pampanga. When it comes to launching vehicles, Toyota is without equal.

The new Hi-Lux is a revelation in many ways.

One, Toyota retaining the Hi-Lux and improving it all the more is a testimony to the enduring legacy of the pickup. My son's first vehicle is a Hi-Lux, which he bought in 1997. He has yet to buy a new one to add to his old, reliable Hi-Lux. For, as far as I know, his Hi-Lux is still in great shape. I think he will never let go of it—for sentimental reasons.

Two, the new Hi-Lux is considered the first main model of the world-renowned IMV (Innovative Multipurpose Vehicle). It's actually more than that. As Raymond Rodriguez said, "Its original acronym was IIMV, which means International Innovative Multipurpose Vehicle. It's been shortened to IMV for easier pronunciation."

* * *

Basically, when a vehicle is classified as an IMV, it is capable of traversing all kinds of roads and terrains and can be, like a golf course in the modern-day era, an all-weather (vehicle).

The new Toyota Hi-Lux qualifies under that and the Philippines gets the distinction of being the second country in Asia, if not the world, to have such kind of a vehicle. Lucky are those who would buy the new Hi-Lux shortly, for they will experience a totally different ride in this era of The Polar Express and Ipod. (Yes, Albert and Loi, I dread that day when I wasn't around when you put that wondrous piece of technology up for grabs during the Volvo party. Hu-hu-hu!)

As Nobuharu Tabata said, during the Hi-Lux launch: "I am proud to be part of this magnificent technology as its launch here in the Philippines spells a new dimension in the ever-expanding automotive industry. Toyota is proud to be the leader in this aspect again."

The Hi-Lux launch, indeed, was a smash hit in that even the engineer who crafted the new Hi-Lux was brought here all the way from Japan. His name escapes me at the moment but his face is a familiar one, having seen him a lot of times during my trips with Toyota in the biennial, very-much admired Tokyo Motor Show. His discourse on the features of the well-chiseled Hi-Lux received a warm applause from an appreciative audience that stayed on late into the night, what with sashimi and sushi filling tables endlessly and wine and cognac flowing freely on strict orders of Ariel de Jesus, Toyota's indefatigable pointman. Boy, did I see Vince Socco turn from diplomat to director when Ariel The Angel missed out on sake.

THE OVERALL interior design concept is a combination of car-like features that exceeds pickup standards.

"But not to worry, sir," said Ariel The Angel. "The cognac will more than make up for the absence of sake."

To that, Danny "Sir John" Isla could only nod approvingly.

* * *

Oh, yes, Danny I. I call him "Sir John" because he is Toyota's John Lennon. His speech again during the launch proved once more that he is a Beatlemaniac; "When I'm 64," done to the tune of "Santa Claus is Coming to Town," was played right after his talk.

Said Danny I: "The Hi-Lux's new look combines ruggedness and boldness with style and sophistication.... This new Hi-Lux will attract both the yuppies and the mature adults not only for its functional diversity but also for its looks which can elevate the user's self-esteem and overall image. As we love to say: *'Madaming pogi points ito.'* Today's launch marks a new beginning but it also serves as an aggressive ending to the year 2004 when Toyota continued to reign supreme in the automotive industry."

Even Takemoto-san, Vince Socco's boss in the Toyota offices for the Toyota's Southeast Asian region of operations in Singapore, was moved by Danny I's speech that he stood up clapping lustily.

Nice one, Danny I.

* * *

Even if I'm not around in the Henry Ford Awards on Dec. 10, Angelle de Guzman of Ogilvy Public Relations Worldwide knows that in spirit, I'm there. Congratulations to the winners!

* * *

QUOTE ME. Instead of honking your horn to signal the vehicle in front of you to give way, just overtake it. That way, you preserve peace in your mind, and also the environs.

THE NEW Toyota Hi-Lux

Honda RP delegation grand slam winner in regional technicians championship

AL Brijueda of Honda Cars Makati Inc. took home top honor, in the recently concluded 8th Asia-Oceania technician contest (AOTC) in Thailand, besting other Honda technicians in the Asia and Oceania region.

This event gives service technicians the chance to show their outstanding skills and knowledge while sharing them among fellow technicians from countries in the region.

The previous AOTC venue was in Japan, with local Honda's contender also emerging as champion. Past champions include Moises Ingles of Honda Cars Shaw (2002) and Arnold Bergola of Honda Cars Quezon City (2000).

Motivating technicians

AOTC is designed to motivate Honda technicians and promote various service programs of Asia and Oceania's service division. Participants of the event are technicians representing Honda distributors from Australia, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Singapore, Thailand, Taiwan and the Philippines.

Tests on knowledge and practical skills are prepared for the individual and pair categories, which are geared toward the advancement of Honda technicians. The two categories also give way to improve technical expertise not only as individuals, but as team members as well. However, Honda customers emerged as the ultimate victors as they are the main beneficiaries when skillful technicians attend to their vehicles.

This year's delegation is composed of Brijueda, Joel Pagaduan (Honda Cars Makati), John Badion Jr. (Honda Cars Pangasinan), Manuel Mercado (Honda Cars Pasig) and Albert Teneros (Honda Cars Philippines Inc).

Message

Satoshi Toshida, Honda Motor Co. Ltd. managing director and CEO for regional operations, applauds the outstanding technicians. Says Toshida in his message: "The present automobile industry is facing with extremely severe competition and we are seeing a dramatic reorganization in this field as companies merge to take advantage of the economies of scale. On the other hand, the severe business climate offers considerable opportunity for growth and expansion of business."

Against this backdrop, he says Honda continues to aim for the enhancement of customer satisfaction. "If we achieve a high level of customer satisfaction, however, we cannot stand on our laurels but must aim for an even higher level of service, a level that exceeds the expectations of our customers," he adds.

THE PHILIPPINE delegation is composed of Brijueda, Joel Pagaduan (Honda Cars Makati), John Badion Jr. (Honda Cars Pangasinan), Manuel Mercado (Honda Cars Pasig) and Albert Teneros (Honda Cars Philippines Inc).

100 karters participate in Arthur Tuason Memorial Cup

WINNERS (front row, from left) Marlon Stockinger, Raymond Ronquillo and James Co. Also shown (back row, from left) are Jeff Reyes and JP Tuason. Not in photo is Brian Afuang.

THE 5TH Arthur Tuason Memorial Cup recently lived up to its billing as the biggest karting event of the year at the Manila Speedzone, Fort Bonifacio Global City, as 100 participants signed up for the race for the benefit of the Mabuhay Deseret Foundation, which helps arrange treatment for less fortunate kids who are born with minor deformities and are in need of corrective surgery.

After the rigorous qualifying time trials and prequalifying heats, the final races provided lots of excitement for the crowd in attendance, which included Smart head of personal communications and mobile services Boy Martirez, Ambi Pur president Leo Obias, eStandard Insurance vice president for marketing Seymour Saldavia, Avesco (Kenwood) sales and promotions coordinator Andre Sy Ruiz and Goodyear Philippines president Dave Morin, who presented the awards to the winners.

Division winners

Taking victory in the Goodyear Media and VIP division was Manila Times' Brian Afuang ahead of second placer Manny de los Reyes of Gadgets and Standard Insurance's Seymour Saldavia. The Ford Cadet division was topped by Ton Joson, who was followed home by Rafael Benito and Juha Turalba.

Norman Agojo was first across the line followed by Mark Beton and the piggyback tandem of Binchy Mayuga and Michael Beton in Goodyear Fun Run. In the Addict Novice Light division, it was Philippine Star's Jeff Reyes who took the plum as well as the Red Horse Beer Fastest Lap Award ahead of Jonathan Dael and Vic Icasas. The Addict Novice Heavy division was annexed by James Co, who was trailed by Andrew Gotinianam and Toti Turalba.

In the exciting Standard Insurance Expert Light division, Marlon Stockinger emerged victorious in the face of a hard challenge from Indy Villalon and Jonathan Dael. Raymond Ronquillo took the top of the podium ahead of Marcel Thenu and Gibson Yu in the Standard Insurance Expert Heavy division.

Organizer, sponsors

Organized by the Tuason Racing School, which is headed by JP Tuason, the Arthur Tuason Memorial Cup is an annual kart race for a cause, which is held in honor of the late motor racing legend Arthur Tuason.

It is sponsored by Standard Insurance, Ford, Addict Mobile, Ambi Pur Car, Goodyear tires, Kenwood, Red Horse Beer, C! magazine, trapik.com, Magic 89.9, Oakley, Adidas and Casio G-shock.

Diesel

From page C3

then be translated into the very familiar unit of the dieter's calorie (technically a kilo-calorie, but who's counting) and the factor is 1 BTU = 0.251996 dieter's calories. Therefore a gallon of diesel would pack a total of 37,043.41 calories or 9748.27 calories per liter!

Gasoline on the other hand would have an average of 125,000 BTUs per gallon, translating into 31,499.5 calories with 8289.34 calories per liter. This is one reason we get better mileage from diesel when comparing equivalent engines, as it packs, literally, more "bang for buck." With this concentrated energy comes a higher viscosity or thickness, and an elevated boiling point compared to gasoline. The lighter less concentrated stuff, like gasoline, floats. To further dispel the "bottom of the barrel" myth, diesel is actually found somewhere in the middle of the distillation tank (or column), carbon residue and lubricants are the true "bottom dwellers" in this case.

How can we say that diesel is a more efficient source of power than gas, if we see, almost on a daily basis, inefficiently burnt fuel coming out of the tailpipes of both dilapidated PUVs and multi-million-peso SUVs? It all comes down to the basic design and level of maintenance of all diesel engines.

Inherent flaw

By design, diesel engines live on compression and the ability to achieve immense levels of compression (sometimes twice that of their gasoline counterparts) over and over again. Unlike gasoline, diesel only relies on the heat generated by the intense compression of the fuel and air mixture to achieve combustion. This delicate mixture of diesel, air and pressure must be meticulously balanced to get a complete or clean burn. In this system also lies the inherent flaw of the diesel engine, and ultimately the cause of smoke belching. Imagine trying to manufacture a chamber that is both able to withstand compression forces and expansion forces several thousand times a minute.

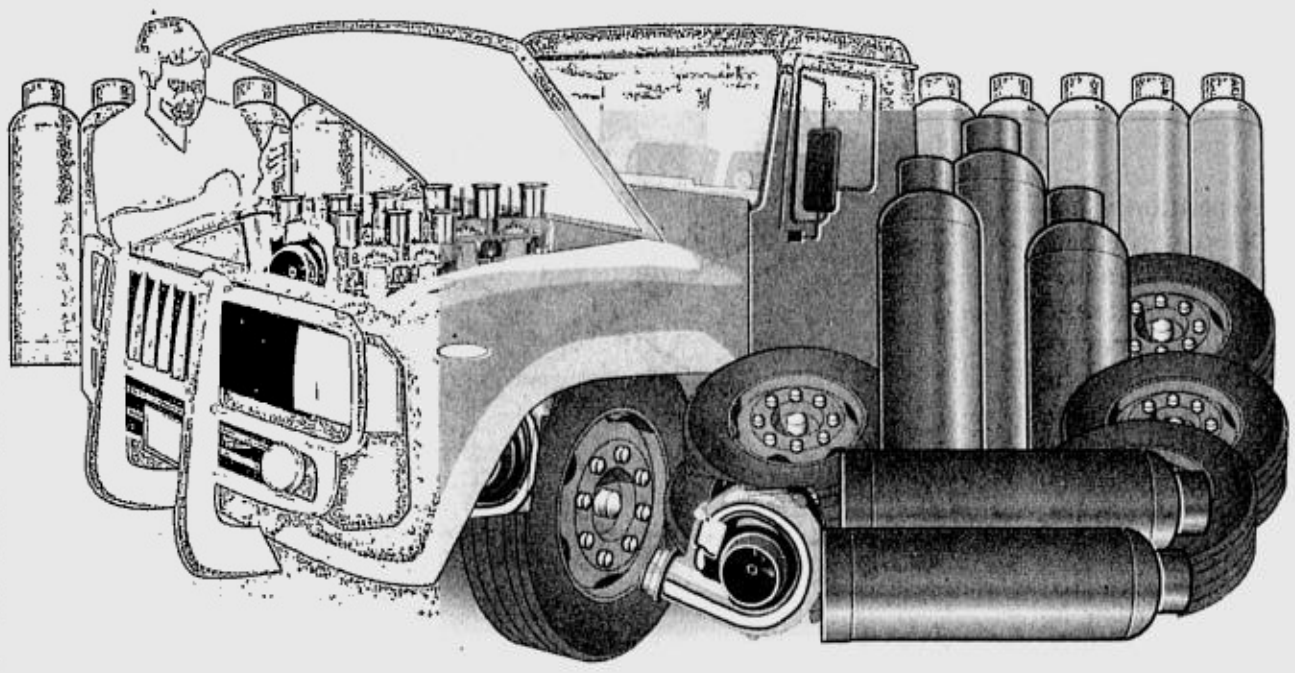
How about trying to make this leak proof for three years or the next 100,000 kilometers, whichever comes first? We can only hope to delay the process of degradation, and this comes with fanatically religious preemptive maintenance. Have your vehicle compression tested once smoke becomes evident. Also have the injectors checked, as blockages may occur due to low-quality diesel. Try to load the new breed of "clean diesels" that are available on the market from the major oil companies. If your favorite brand doesn't carry a new and improved diesel, then ask them why they do not.

Bright future

The future looks bright for this overlooked fuel. Manufacturers have been designing engines that take advantage of the high-powered punch of diesel and its innate efficiency. Common Rail Diesel Injection systems, that use computer controlled pre, main and post injectors, mated to pressure accumulator—the "rail," prefect the delivery, pressure and volumes of air and fuel for combustion, resulting in some "better than gasoline" driving experiences.

Locally, some brands are beginning to sell this technology, capitalizing on the "both frugal and fun" concept. Most of the motoring public will agree with the frugal bit of the sales pitch, but can diesel really be more fun than gas? Let's just say the next time you find yourself at a stoplight next to a new 5 series Bimmer, you better think twice. Most likely, all you'll get is a long frustrating look at its rear end and the little letter "d" after the numbers five, three, zero.

Know more about good car maintenance



NOWADAYS, the average age of vehicles on the road is greater than nine years and more than 68 percent of vehicles have run more than 75,000 miles.

As a vehicle's engine ages, its performance decreases and oil starts to break down at a faster rate. Over time, seals begin to deteriorate, gaskets become brittle and oil consumption increases. All these lead to a reduction in engine performance.

But don't feel too bad. There are ways to squeeze out more efficiency and performance from your car with a little TLC. Just remember these car maintenance tips, courtesy of 3M's Car Care Cloth:

• **Make sure you change oil every three months or 3,000 miles whichever comes first.** Think of your engine as the heart of your car and motor oil as the lifeblood of your engine. One can't function without the other, so pay attention to your "change-oil" schedule.

• **Schedule regular tune-ups.** Even if your car seems fine, it's no guarantee that it is. Tune-ups will ensure that your car's major components are running smoothly and that they stay that way. Change your oil, check your tires and rotate them if necessary. Check the belts and replace them if broken. Inspect brake linings, spark plugs, air filter and fuel aspects.

• **Have your tire pressure checked at least once a month.** It's the best way to prevent unexpected flats. Also make sure to rotate your tires and check their alignment as part of your regular tune-up.

• Pay attention to every little thump, weird hum or "ping" that you hear. Cars, like people, have their peculiarities and you are sure to quickly learn what is normal for yours. It is best to check out any symptom—be it a sound, smell or feeling. Remember: An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

• **Pay attention to outward signs.** If your car is leaking fluids, it can mean serious trouble. Keep an eye on the conditions of your driveway or regular parking space for stains or spots that can warn you about possible leaks.

• **Find a good mechanic.** If you don't do your own maintenance, find a shop with a good mechanic that will give you peace of mind about matters concerning your car. Consider him your car's "personal physician."

• **Check fluids regularly.** It's dangerous for your car to get dehydrated, so be sure to keep an eye on its vital fluids.

• **Store your car properly.** Storing your vehicle in a dry temperature location when it is not in use will prevent disastrous wear and tear on both its interior and exterior. Keep your car in the garage as much as possible to protect its look.

• **Stay on top of safety features.** Nothing is more important than your car's ability to protect both you and your passengers. Airbags, antilock breaks and any other additional safety features that you may have added to your car should be carefully checked on regular basis to ensure that in the event of an accident, they will perform their vital, lifesaving functions.

• **Make sure your car's interior and exterior are clean and organized.** 3M's Car Care Cloth can help you take care of this. This thermo-bonded, nonwoven wiping cloth is designed for general cleaning operations inside and outside your car. The cloth absorbs nine times its dry weight so you don't have to worry about wringing it frequently. It is soft, flexible and easy to squeeze dry. It's also scratch-free so you don't have to worry about damaging your car's body or windshield. You can use it wet or dry. Keep one handy in your car for major or touch-up jobs.

Ford caps year with road safety concerns

TO MARK Ford's drive for a safer world, Ford Philippines caps 2004 with a special event for its customers and the public on Saturday. Dubbed "Road Safety Is no Accident," the event will include activities that aim to increase awareness on road safety.

Said Henry Co, president of Ford Group Philippines: "When we began Ford Day last year, it was to celebrate our centennial year. This year's Ford Day is to again thank our customers and the public for the support that has made 2004 exciting for Ford. Early this year we launched the Ford Road Safety campaign and today, we want to reinforce Ford's commitment to road safety by communicating its importance to the family via this activity."

Ford Day 2004 promises to be yet another exciting day packed with activities for the whole family and is made even bigger with the inclusion of the Volvo, Jaguar and Land Rover, which are brands under the Ford family.

Safety firsts exhibit

The Ford's Safety Firsts exhibit is a showcase of Ford's commitment to road safety through the years, which includes information on Ford's safety innovations.

• **Amazing road race.** Eight teams will race to complete 8 road safety pitstops with the best time using road safety clues.

• **Baby Drive My Car (RC Challenge).** Baby Drive My Car is an exciting remote control car-racing contest. Two remote controlled cars are set up to race through a road safety track. The competition is open to 20-30 participants who sign up upon registration.

Ford Day activities

Kids are sure to learn a lot about road safety with the "Pin the Ford Oval," which is open to kids 10 years old and below. The "Road Sign-making" contest, meanwhile, is open to kids 10-15 years old.

Lastly, the Ford Day would not be complete without the parade of Ford vehicles from past to present and other vehicles under the Ford Family such as the Volvo, Jaguar and Land Rover. The Ford motorcade will go around The Fort and Makati.

To make the Ford Day even more exciting, prizes will be raffled off hourly beginning 11:30 a.m. The grand raffle winner will get a trip for three to Boracay.

Ford will also award Ford road safety stickers to the winners of the predrawn raffle.

Live-band performance and fireworks will cap the Ford Day celebration. The event will also showcase some pocket activities: Ford vehicle test drives, display of the latest vehicle offerings of Ford, Mazda, Jaguar, Land Rover and Volvo, safety clinics to be conducted by Tuason Racing, Goodyear, Standard Insurance and Pilipinas Shell and food bars. A 10-point vehicle checkup will also be available to Ford and Mazda owners.

A GIFT OF GOOD FORTUNE FROM UMC

Generous gifts await you at your nearest Nissan dealer in gratitude for Universal Motors' Fortune Fifty Celebration.

- Big discounts on all models of the Nissan Frontier, Patrol and Urvan -- up to ₱100,000 for cash purchases
- 0% interest on selected terms*
- Low, low downpayment at 10%*
- Longer payment term at 6 years*

Don't miss this once in a lifetime offer.

*Subject to bank approval.

Universal Motors Corporation
FORTUNE FIFTY

Catch the UMC Fortune Fifty Celebration
November 12 to December 12, 2004 only.
Visit your nearest Nissan dealer now!

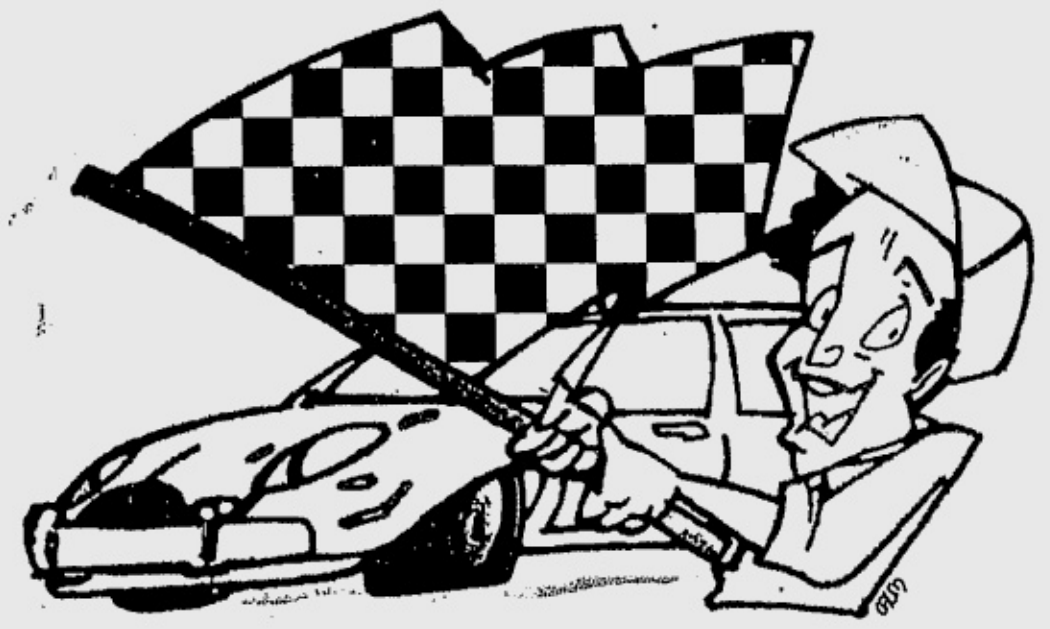
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2763 Series of 2004

NISSAN

Singapore hosts world-class motor show

Manila sets similar show

By Ulysses Ang
Contributor



THE GLITZ and glamour of an international motor show has an effect that echoes past the confines of the exhibition hall. More often than not, motor shows such as those in Tokyo, Detroit and Geneva are gauges of current and future market trends—places where car manufacturers take the pulse of the consumers and vice versa. And, for all the talk about the latest shebang that was launched in a motor show half a world away, it's funny that Southeast Asia only has one world-renowned show: Bangkok. Well, maybe two.

With Bangkok fast becoming a major center of car production in the region, it's no surprise that manufacturers such as Ford and Isuzu would show their latest wares there. However, what about the other car makes whose manufacturing plants are still based in Europe, and whose clientele are much more affluent? There's the Singapore Motor Show.

Milestone for organizers

Despite Singapore's diminutive size, the country commands a high market potential for luxury goods, including cars and motorbikes. It's no question that when the exhibition halls opened for the 7th Singapore Motor Show, only the best of the best would be exhibited. This year marks a milestone of sorts for the organizers of the Singapore Motor Show with over a hundred exhibitors present. This year's theme, "Drive the Future" couldn't have been more appropriate with the presence of world-class concepts from the members of the Japanese Automobile Manufacturer's Association (Jama) as well as sneak peek at future showroom-ready offerings.

There's no lacking in exotics this year with various examples, some shown for the first time in the Asean market. Among the highlights are the all-new Porsche Boxster and Carrera GT, Lamborghini Murcielago Roadster, Maserati Quattroporte, Rolls-Royce Phantom and 100EX.

Great cars

There are also some great cars from east and west with the presence of the 7th generation Chevrolet Corvette and SSR pickup, Mazda RX-8, Nissan 350Z Roadster, Petter Solberg's Subaru Impreza WRC and Honda S2000 Mk II as well as a preview of the upcoming Mitsubishi Evolution IX and Colt MIVEC Turbo.

Family cars became the show's main come-on though, virtually transforming the exhibition hall into one giant showroom featuring the face-lifted Honda CR-V and Odyssey, all-new Nissan Cefiro and Latio, Chevrolet Optra 5-door, Peugeot 307CC and 407SW.

Giving the motor show some high-tech twists are some concept cars such as the Honda HSC Concept, Saab 9-X, Suzuki C2 Concept, Toyota CS&S and Fine-N.

As high-tech as most showcases could be, Mercedes-Benz, a first-time exhibitor decided to turn back the clock with their collection of six museum-quality classics dubbed "Shining Silver Star Collection." Among them are the 1886 Benz Patent Car, the 1924 28/95 hp—the first car known as Mercedes, and the decisively aerodynamic 1939 Mercedes-Benz 320 "streamliner."

If the cars didn't provide enough entertainment, carmakers gave their utmost best in entertaining the crowd with various mini shows and raffles. Mazda brought down the house with their "Zoom-Zoom" girls dance show, while Toyota had a family friendly atmosphere complete with clowns and balloons. The main highlight though is a Subaru Impreza stunt show done by Guinness Book of World Records holder for fastest parallel parker, Russ Swift.

With the Singapore Motor Show already through as you read this, you'll have to wait another two years for the next one to arrive. However, there's always a more affordable alternative. For the first time ever, Manila will be hosting a motor show of its own with a similar scope and depth. Worldbex International will be raising the curtains on the first-ever Manila Motor Show on April 28 next year.

Interested parties who want to inquire about the Manila Motor Show may contact Worldbex International Inc. at (63-2) 531-6374, 531-6350, 533-6988. Please look for Jill Ang.

SHOWN during the opening ceremonies are, from left, event organizer Carlo Montemayor, Jomari Yllana with son Andre and Jolo Revilla.

Drive! gathers stars at Westgate Center

ONE of this year's hottest events in the motoring world recently kicked off at Westgate Center, a one-stop leisure complex in Alabang.

Westgate's Drivel Celebrity Car Show gathered personalities from the entertainment, business, auto clubs, car dealers and other car enthusiasts in a two-day showcase of cars, big bikes and all kinds of cars and bike paraphernalia.

Those who displayed their most prized automobiles include Jomari Yllana, Jolo Revilla, Dominic Ochoa, Ian de Leon, Joey Marquez and Aubrey Miles.

Guests also witnessed the launch of the first electric-powered bikes and the exhibit of leading auto paint and performance shops.

The event formed part of Westgate Center's exciting activities lined up for the year. Westgate Center is located at the corner of Commerce and Filinvest avenues, Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang. The complex is open from 7 a.m. to 1 a.m. daily. For inquiries, call 809-5428 and 807-6729.

Gas-saving tips you need to know

IT SEEMS that before current gas prices can go down, they will first go up, thanks to the uncertain situation in the Middle East.

Motorists have cause to complain, but then again, what can they do? Unless the political fortunes in that part of the world change drastically, fuel-bound economies will just have to grin and bear it. Or cope with the situation by finding ways to reduce consumption.

Nomad Car Mat by 3M, are made with revolutionary loops that absorbs dust and spills so the car's interior never gets wet or dirty.

Helpful hints

3M offers some helpful ideas from Mary Hunt of Everyday Cheapskate, an online savings column, that will reduce gas consumption and help motorists cope with the tough times.

Nomad suggests that motorists undertake various conservation measures, no matter how small. They will all add up in the long run and result in savings. Here's how:

• **Lighten the load.** More weight in the car eats up more gas. Try to get your vehicle as light as possible. Unload everything from the trunk except spare tire, jack and other safety equipment. Don't use the trunk for storage. The extra load in the trunk could be the equivalent weight of another person, or more! Unloading 50 to 200 pounds of extra weight could pick up an additional two to three miles per gallon.

• **Check the tires.** The harder your engine has to work to get the car to and from destinations, the more gas it's going to use. If tires are improperly inflated, they don't roll as easily as they should and create a drag. Check the owner's manual for proper inflation measured in pounds per square inch (psi). Whenever you fill up, take the time to check all four tires and inflate them if needed.

• **Buy the cheapest gas.** Name-brand gas is no better than discount gas. Cheaper is not inferior because all gas pass government permits and standards. Go for the cheapest station in town.

• **Buy the right grade.** Unless your car specifically requires high-octane gas (check the manual), buy regular gas. Using a higher, more expensive grade than specified will not really improve mileage or protect your engine.

• **Gauge your speed.** Travel steadily at the legal speed limit and chances are, the traffic lights will work to your advantage because they're timed to match traffic flow. Increase your chances of getting "green lights" all the way and save on fuel.

• **Watch your speed.** The speed at which you drive your car has a huge effect on fuel consumption. Driving at 105 kph instead of 88 kph can use up to 17 percent more fuel. Use cruise control whenever you can, especially on highways. By maintaining a steady speed, you will improve your gas mileage. Listen: For every mile per hour over 55, you lose 2 percent in fuel economy. That means that if you get 30 mpg at 55, it drops to 27 at 97 kph and all the way down to 21 mpg at 70.

• **Use overdrive.** If your car's transmission has overdrive, use it. It's like the fourth gear and was designed to conserve on fuel.

• **One-minute rule.** Don't allow your engine to idle for longer than one minute. If you're going to stay in the same spot longer than that, you'll save fuel by turning off the engine.

• **Plan ahead.** Do all your errands at the same time. Plan ahead so you take care of all your errands in one trip.

• **Team up.** Carpooling is something we must now take seriously. Instead of everyone in the neighborhood driving to the same school or work area at the same time, form a group. This could be profitable in more ways than one.

Toyota sponsors MTV Asia Awards in 2005

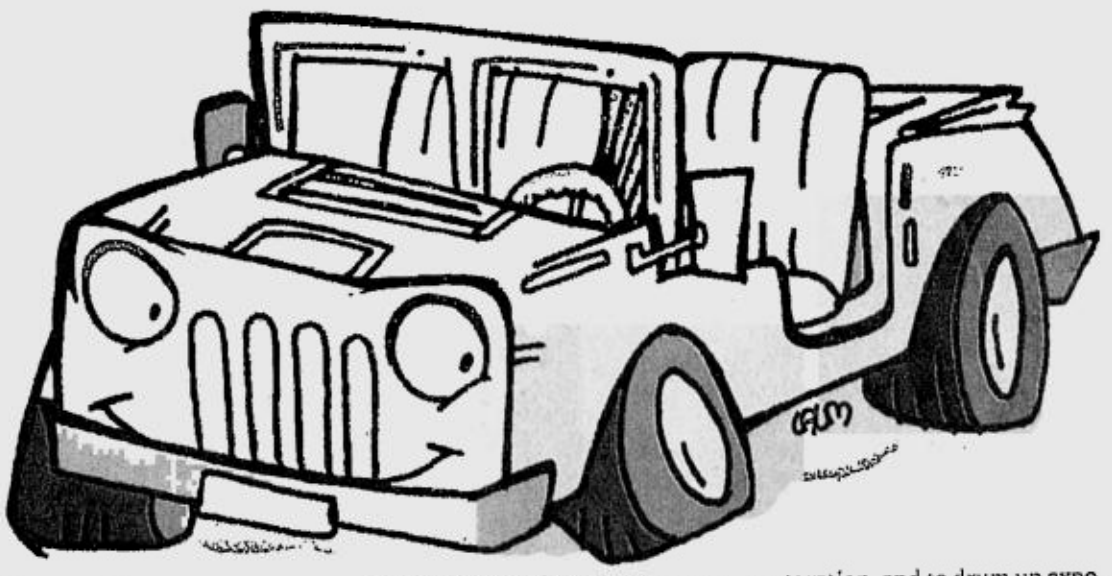
TOKYO—Toyota Motor Corp. (TMC) has announced its continued sponsorship of the MTV Asia Awards. It is sponsoring the awards in 2005.

Broadcast to over 180 million homes, the MTV Asia Awards (MAA) represents one of the highest forms of recognition for Asia's leading musical talents, and Toyota is proud to be a part of the development of musical and youth culture in the region.

In addition to the MAA, Toyota also sponsors the Toyota Classics, delivering genuine classical music performances across Asia. By supporting these events, Toyota aims to share with the people of Asia their passion for music.

These awards are another great opportunity for Toyota to reconfirm its commitment toward this region and contribute to its societies following its desire to be a model corporate citizen.

Jeep 'virus' in the Philippines



THERE'S an incurable "virus" rolling across the country.

It's the kind that keeps its victim awake and anxious in the dead of night, hands quivering, and seeing visions of military jeeps driving around in their unadulterated splendor back in World War II. The condition is alleviated only as soon as the victim sneaks into the garage and starts tinkering with a mountain of spare parts. Out of this heap of metal scraps will rise an M38 or a Willys MB.

The subject gets an unexplained urge to scour old warehouses in Cavite, Pampanga and nearby towns for even the smallest of screws. His conversations are peppered with the words chassis, skid plate and clamp front. He considers the 1940s as the most interesting period in history. Winning the war and driving the Japanese away was only a secondary reason he's grateful to the US Army; foremost is the fact that it brought the military jeeps—the forerunner of today's ubiquitous PUJ—to Philippine soil.

If you've had a prolonged exposure to people exhibiting these symptoms, you too could be afflicted with...the Jeep "Virus."

Close encounters

At the first-ever convention of their kind at the Double-Deck RestoGrille on Ortigas Avenue, the men, aged 21 to 75, declared undying love for their passion. Organized by the Philippine Jeep Preservation Foundation, the occasion gathered jeep enthusiasts from diverse backgrounds and professions, with only their devotion for the jeep as the common denominator. They arrived from Pampanga, Cavite, Bulacan and parts of Metro Manila via a motorcade aboard their gleaming masterpieces.

Later, after the agenda for the day had been properly dispensed with, the jeep comrades surveyed each other's vehicles like kids inspecting each other's toys. Much later, over chilled bottles of beer and plates full of *pulutan* they still talk about jeeps. No wonder author Ambrosio Makalintal, himself a certified jeep fanatic and considered as one of the foremost experts on the subject, cowrote a book titled "Jeep, Jeep, Jeep." These men seemed eager to discuss nothing else.

"Military jeeps are war relics. They're part of the country's colorful history. Restoring a jeep to its old glorious self is like playing a jigsaw puzzle; you feel thrilled as everything falls into place. It rouses deep pride in you," explained Makalintal, who owns 12-14 of these units at any one time.

And proud, they indeed are. These military jeeps are considered rubbish of war, and the fact that Filipinos were able to restore or recondition them is proof of the famed Pinoy ingenuity.

Said MD Juan events coordinator Jo Ampil: "The restorers tell us it's like you're the king of the road when you're driving a vintage military jeep because it attracts everybody's attention. The problem is, you sometimes feel like a second-class citizen. You are eclipsed by the jeep."

Because of his job, Ampil has also caught the jeep "virus" and is now into the same hobby himself.

Treasure hunting

And look at how far jeep restorers' passions take them. One jeep aficionado, Teng Agas, waxed romantic as he explained the pains they go through sourcing out original spare parts: "It's like a love-struck man pursuing the woman of his dreams even to the ends of the earth. You'll do anything, go anywhere, to find her." For the love of a hard-to-find screw no bigger than a 25-centavo coin, he and his four friends had to search an unused pigpen in Pampanga after being tipped off that it was used as a dump for World War II stuff. Some parts they got from an old warehouse and a garage, and the rest they bought from MD Juan.

The group spent P250,000, including labor. Now, they're selling the jeep to a Japanese client for P600,000. It was worth all the trouble for a month's work, they said. Indeed, aside from being a fascinating pastime, jeep restoration can also be lucrative.

Non-profit group

A nonprofit organization affiliated with various clubs of jeep enthusiasts in Davao, Nueva Ecija, Ilocos Norte, Cebu, Bulacan and Pampanga, PJPF was formed to unify and accredit jeep aficionados in the country.

Apart from the beauty of getting acquainted with fellow jeep lovers from other places around the country (and soon, from other countries as well), PJPF members—through the group's global connections—may also acquire jeep equipment and spare parts that are otherwise difficult to acquire locally.

The organization also teaches new enthusiasts the ins and outs of jeep restoration and helps them appraise which part of their jeep is original, how much restoration work should be done, and the costs.

PJPF had originally set its sights on promoting military jeep restoration for leisure and profit, but as more and more people expressed their desire to sign up, however, the goal took on loftier heights: the country is now being groomed as the jeep capital of Asia.

"We are banking on the fact that jeep restoration as a hobby is gaining a cult following in the country. On the surface, it may seem just an ego-booster, to attract attention. But in reality, the passion runs deep," said Rommel Juan, executive director of PJPF.

Juan, who is also the vice president for marketing of MD Juan Enterprises Inc., the only source in Southeast Asia of historically accurate, hard-to-find jeeps and replacement parts, bared at the convention that PJPF will soon be linking up with international organizations of jeep enthusiasts. The intent is to promote its members as an authority on jeep restoration, and to drum up exposure of this world-class Pinoy craft. In fact, the convention is meant to lay the groundwork for the first Pinoy jeep show at The Fort in April. The affair will gather jeep lovers all over the country. Hopefully, it will generate maximum media coverage, said Juan.

The convention was held in time for the 26th death anniversary of Dr. Maximino Dionisio Juan, the founder of MD Juan and Rommel's grandfather. Today, the second and third generations of Juans continue the legacy left by the MD Juan founder.

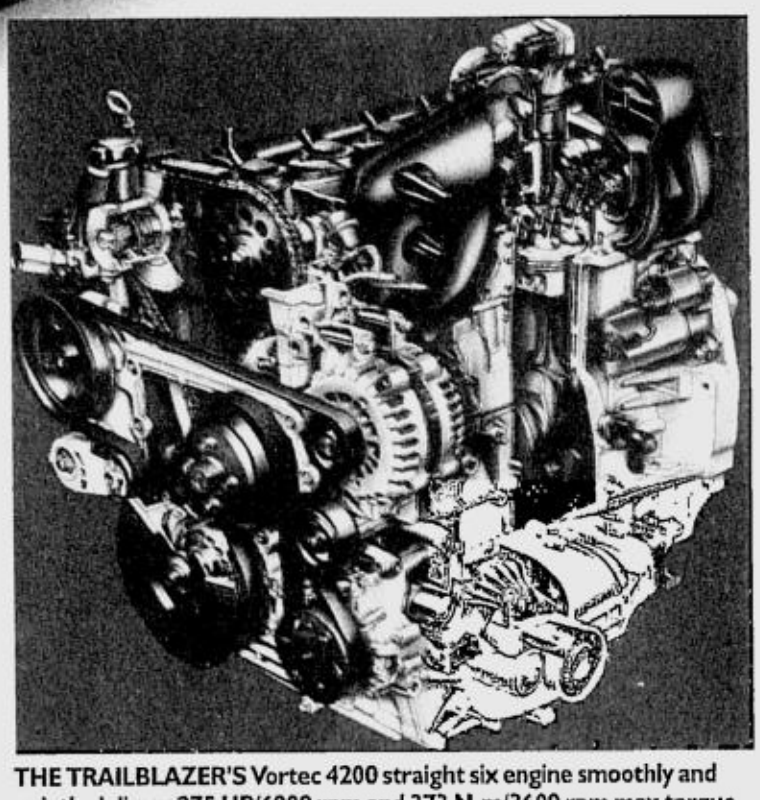
The military jeep which Dr. Juan fell in love with during World War II endured the roughest terrains and the rigors of war. Today, men from all walks of life have come together through PJPF to honor a rich part of our heritage and keep the faith in Pinoy craftsmanship alive.

THE TRAILBLAZER EXT's extended wheelbase provides ample room for seven passengers including driver.

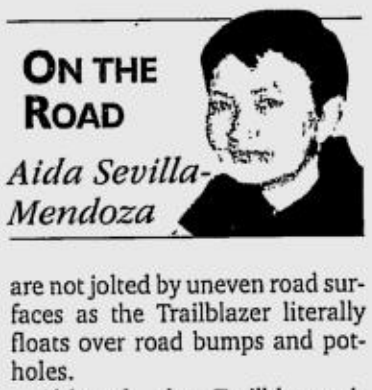
PHOTOS BY AIDA SEVILLA-MENDOZA

The Trailblazer is a sport utility vehicle and, far from being trucklike, it offers a ride as comfortable and as quiet as that of a big car

Trailblazer



THE TRAILBLAZER'S Vortec 4200 straight six engine smoothly and quietly delivers 275 HP/6000 rpm and 373 N-m/3600 rpm max torque.



ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

WHEN I FIRST heard about the Chevrolet Trailblazer (I missed the press launch), I thought it was a pickup truck. Even my visiting *balikbayan* brother from the United States remarked, "That's a truck!" when I told him I would be test-driving the Trail-Blazer.

How wrong we both were. The Trailblazer is a sport utility vehicle and, far from being trucklike, it offers a ride as comfortable and as quiet as that of a big car. Ride comfort, in fact, is one of the outstanding qualities of the 2004 Trailblazer, which was recently introduced by General Motors Philippines Inc. (GMPh). Chevrolet designed and built the Trailblazer in such a way that the cabin and passengers are isolated from road noise caused by bumps and potholes. Aside from enjoying quiet motoring, passengers are not jolted by uneven road surfaces as the Trailblazer literally floats over road bumps and potholes.

Although the Trailblazer is classified as a midsize SUV, the model offered by GMPh—the seven-seater EXT version with an extended wheelbase—looks like a full-size SUV, being 16 inches longer than the standard model. On the other hand, while the Trailblazer EXT appears to be longer than the Ford Expedition and Nissan Patrol, it is not as wide as either one.

Roomiest

The extended wheelbase makes the EXT the roomiest midsize SUV in the market since the rear seats are big enough to comfortably accommodate two fully grown, well-fed adults—not only children or pygmies. Even with the rear seats in position, 663 liters of cargo space are available behind. Moreover, the seatbacks of the second and third rows of seats can be folded forward in four different combinations to increase cargo space to as much as 3,030 liters.

With its seven-passenger seating capacity, carlike ride, quiet interior and smooth 4-speed automatic transmission, could the Trailblazer EXT be mistaken for a minivan or soccer mom mobile? The answer is Definitely Not, especially if you come face to face with the macho heft of the Trailblazer or witness its powerful performance on the road. The Trailblazer is equipped with the Vortec 4.2-liter, 24-valve, inline six, 275 HP/6,000 rpm powerplant that has been chosen as one of the Ten Best Engines by Ward's Autoworld, the prestigious US motor engineering journal. The towing hooks at the back are not just for show, either: the Trailblazer's maximum pulling power is measured at 373 N-m torque/3,600 rpm.

Auto Trac 4WD

Other features that distinguish the Trailblazer from minivans/soccer mom mobiles are its Auto Trac 4WD, 17-inch wheels, skid plate and high-ground clearance—the EXT is 2.6 inches higher than the standard model. The suspension system—independent coil over shock with upper and lower control arms up front and five-link with coil springs at the rear—and a front stabilizer bar provide the cushy ride that is a cruising characteristic of big American SUVs.

However, although the Vortec 4200 straight six engine performs smoothly and quietly with excellent linear delivery, it is hampered by the EXT's 2247-kg curb weight. Quick acceleration and sporty handling are not that achievable in a Vortec 4200-powered Trailblazer EXT. For these driving thrills, you'll need the additional power supplied by the 5.3-liter V-8 engine option, but this is available only in the United States.

Compensated

The EXT's lack of agility is compensated somewhat by the creature comforts of its passenger cabin: dual zone aircon, 8-way power driver's seat, cruise control, tilt-adjustable steering column, leather-wrapped sport steering wheel, six-speaker AM/FM stereo with CD/cassette player, a built-in voice recorder, power windows with express down, power outlets, assist handles, coat hooks and deep tint glass. A full complement of safety features is standard, including two SRS airbags, 4-wheel disc brakes with ABS and power assist, 3-point seatbelts for all seating positions, halogen headlights, fog lamps, daytime running lights, security system with side guard door beams and remote keyless entry. GMPh claims that the US National Highway Safety Administration has given the EXT its highest 5-star safety rating.

In the last analysis, the Trailblazer's major edge over its seven-seater rivals is its price: P2,095,000—up by P100,000 from its introductory P1,995,000 price—but still lower than the V6 Ford Explorer (P2,295,000) and the 3.8-liter gasoline Mitsubishi Pajero (P2,350,000). With this price incentive, you should soon see more Trailblazers on the road.

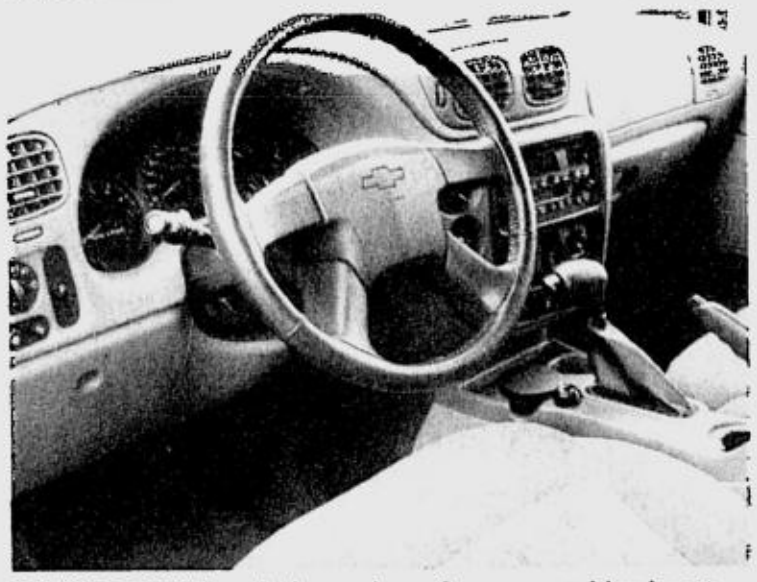
* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: Government's philosophy: If it ain't broke, fix it till it is.

* * *

(E-mail comments to asevilla@inquirer.com.ph)

EVEN with the rear seats in position, 633 liters of cargo space are available. The cargo shelf/cover is detachable and the rear and middle row of seats can be folded forward to increase cargo floor space to 3,030 liters.



IN THE COCKPIT are dual zone aircon, 8-way power driver's seat, cruise control, leather-wrapped sport steering wheel, six speaker Bose audio system, a voice recorder and power everything.

Picanto: Kia's runaway bestseller

THE CAR that is eliciting a second look at parking lots and wowing them in showrooms is not your sleek, macho-looking SUV but really a diminutive, whit of a car—the Kia Picanto. Undoubtedly Kia's runaway bestseller this year, the Picanto is hot, so hot in fact that no sooner than a unit is displayed on the platform and it is already spoken for by the end of the day!

Felix J. Mabilog Jr., Columbian Autocar Corp. (CAC) executive vice president and COO is quite elated. "We've really not expected the public reception to be this much. What we do know is that when we introduce the Picanto, we will have one salable car that can run abreast with some of the better-selling sedans now available on the market," he says. "But to expect something like this is overwhelming. Not during a fiscal crisis," Mabilog adds.

Soft launch

CAC initially brought in 150 units of the Picanto in September for its soft launch. These units were sold out in less than two weeks. It was also noted that customers were lining up in the showrooms to make reservations even before CAC could place a single ad in the newspapers or make a formal launch.

The key to Picanto's runaway charm and attraction is its lean price tag. At a little over P300,000, it is without doubt the cheapest sedan in the market today. Its 1.1-liter gasoline EFI 12-valve, 4 cylinder engine also promises to deliver sporty and dynamic performance and excellent fuel economy—about 26 kilometers to a liter of gas. No car model available in its range comes close in fuel savings, especially at a time when fuel prices are escalating.

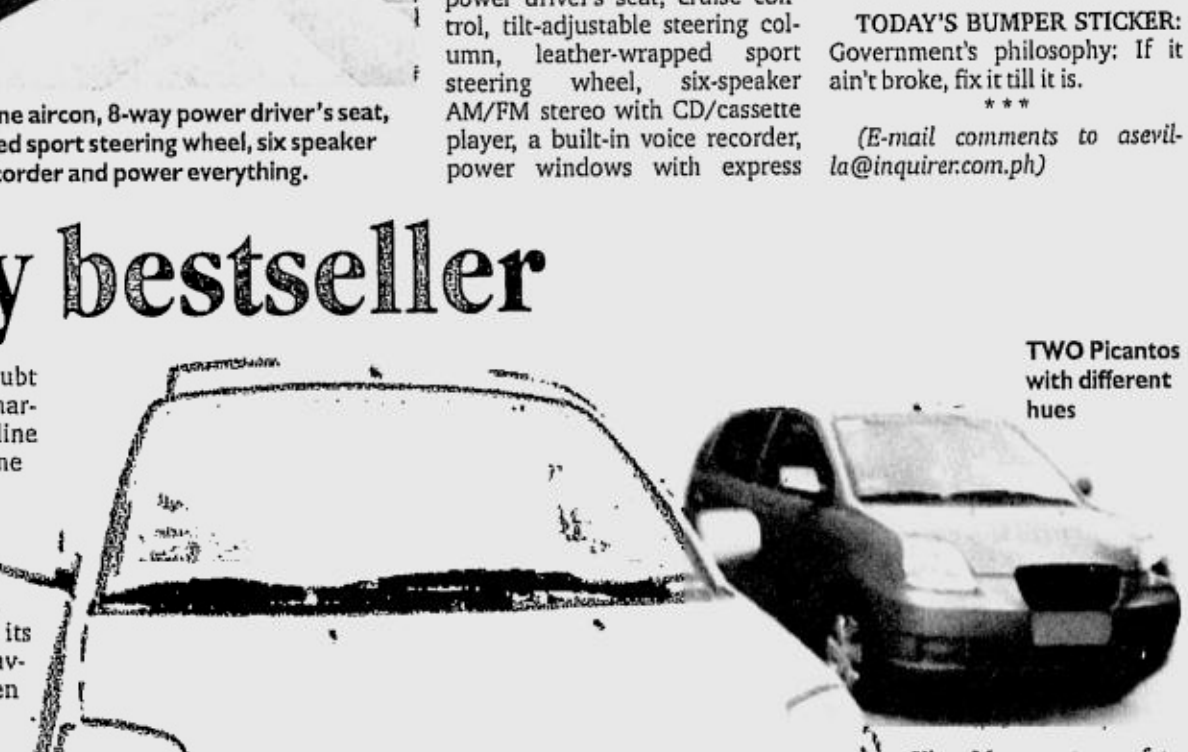
HOW the side of the Picanto looks.

Impressive car

"We have in the Picanto a really impressive car," Mabilog says. "Its compact design and style sensibilities appeal to young, active consumers. Start-up families will enjoy the flexibility with which the car can be used to fulfill a variety of needs. The Picanto can be an office car, a shopping car and a party car, with plenty of room to spare," Mabilog continues.

The Picanto showcases convenient features such as power steering and air-conditioner with micro air filter. It has a rear seat with double folding capacity, a door map pocket, a two-layer glove box, luggage under floor tray, cup holder, cell phone tray and ashtray. Picanto's roominess allows luggage and other personal belongings to be fitted in easily and conveniently.

The multipurpose vehicle (MPV) functionality and styling of the Picanto is based on the design theme created by the Kia Europe design team: fun and exciting, young and modern, and yet stable and trustworthy.



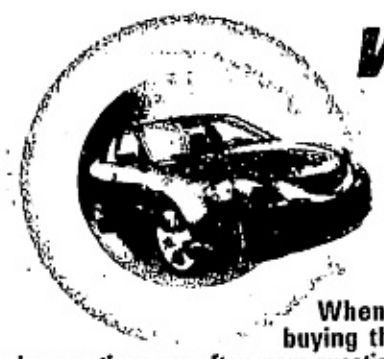
TWO Picantos with different hues

Safety features

The Picanto has also benefited from the meticulous attention of Kia Motors to safety; something that is often overlooked.

A comprehensive system comprises a set of safety items such as ultrahigh tensile steel beams that provide an extra margin of safety against side impacts, reinforced front and rear bumpers, child safety locks on the rear doors and three-point seatbelts. These point to Kia's state of technology safety engineering.

The Picanto is available in eight youthful and vibrant colors—clear white, lemon yellow, orange, scarlet red, liquid silver, blue diamond, samba green and cobalt blue—at all Kia dealers nationwide.



Want a car that suits your needs?

Supercharge your choices with BDO Auto Loan!

When it comes to buying the car of your dreams, there are often more questions than outright answers. Does this car suit my lifestyle, my family, or my budget? The people behind BDO Auto Loan would like to find ways to create value for your driving needs – and here are a few we've found:

• ***Consider your Finances.*** On top of the down payment, expect to pay for the car's chattel mortgage, insurance, documentary stamps, and registration fees, among others. Read the fine print very carefully – or else you'll be in for a nasty shock.

• ***Find the Right Source.*** Shop around and compare vehicles and prices, to make sure that you get the best deal available. Don't just visit individual car showrooms; look through magazines, newspapers, and the Internet to find the information you need. If you can find a car financing service that offers you vehicle sourcing advice, then all the better – and all the easier!

• ***Check the After-Sales Service.*** It may be tough at first, but it pays to be peskily inquisitive about your new car's maintenance and after sales service. Investigate everything – from your dealer's maintenance and repair policies, to their facilities and parts availability.

• ***Check the Gas Gauge.*** Get value at the gas pump – with today's rising gas prices, fuel efficient automobiles are the way to go. Ask owners of the car model you're considering – see if you can learn about the car's performance based on their experiences. Educate yourself now, avoid the pain at the gas tank later.

• ***Get a Test Drive Done.*** Get the feel of the car before you decide – you want to know if it suits your requirements, as well as the little extras you want (Is the cup holder the right size?).

• ***Get the BEST deal available.*** Look around – there's sure to be a package that suits your budget, no matter how slim. Your friends and relatives may have their own opinions. Rest assured, you don't have to look far – BDO Supercharged Auto Loan offers you the best deal you'll ever find!

BDO Auto Loans lets you buy your car today – and put off your first amortization sixty days after loan release! Imagine the relief — you'll get precious time for your finances to recover, just in time for the coming Christmas holidays!

You'll also get as much as P10,000 worth of free gas – a wonderful relief from today's rising gas prices. It's like having as much than seven full tanks for free – you won't even feel the Christmas crunch with this unique offer! On top of all that, you'll also get a FREE BDO Shop More MasterCard to help with your shopping, and more!

Get your dream car – get going to BDO!

Just visit any BDO branch in Metro Manila to apply for a loan, or visit your auto dealer to be part of BDO's Supercharged offer!

Meeting your needs – and more.

What's behind all the bonuses? Call it our commitment to our number one customer: you. "Our goal is to give our customers more relevant and meaningful offers," says Anna Uy-Yap, VP & Marketing Head for BDO Consumer Lending. "We found out that, on top of giving them low rates, fast turnaround time and convenience, a lot of customers are looking for financial flexibility." The result, says Ms. Yap, was the BDO Supercharged Auto Loan.

"With gas prices going up … customers would rather get free gas than car gadgets and accessories."

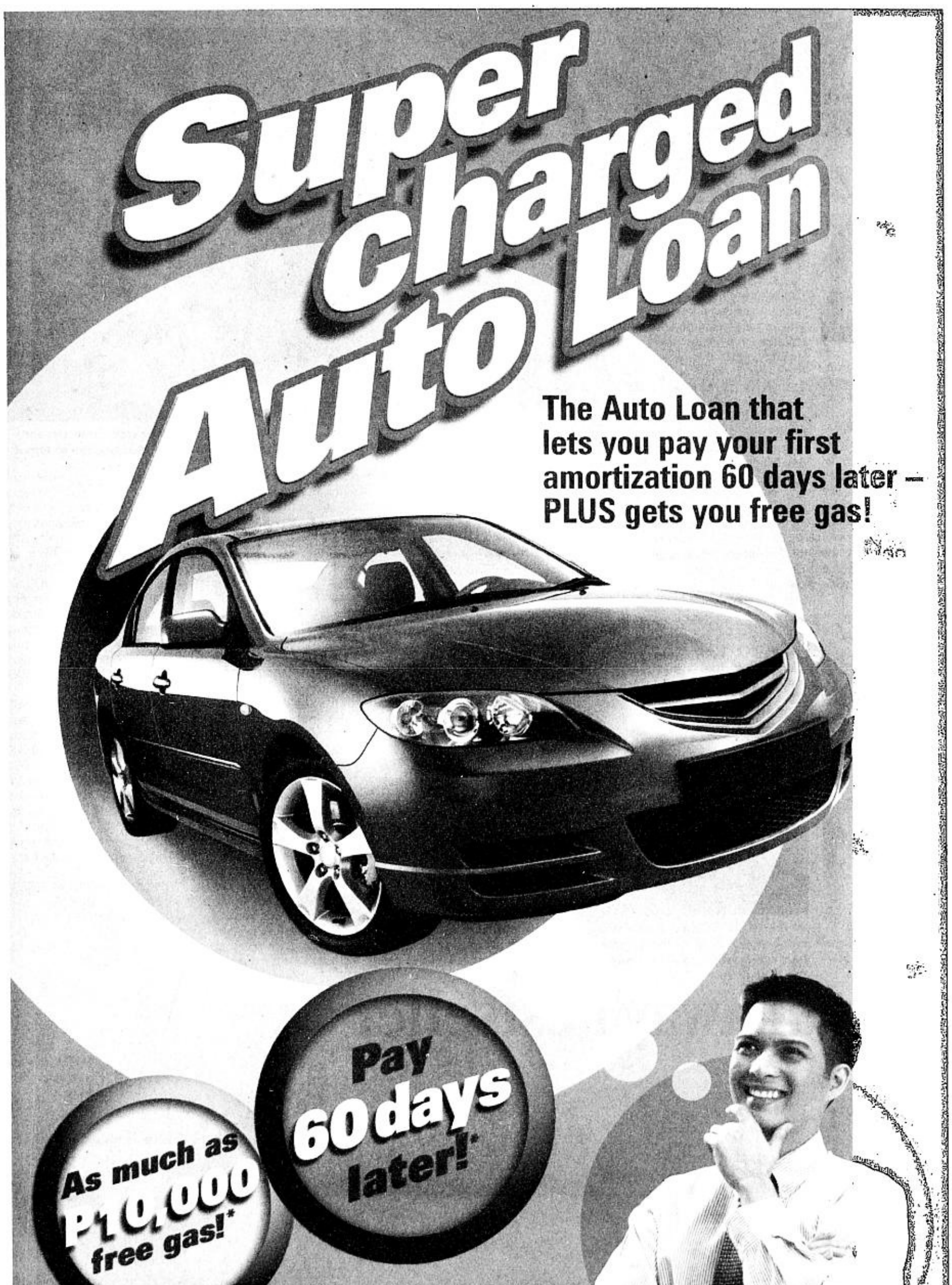
The challenge has increased for BDO in the past few years, says Antonio Pena, VP & Head of Auto Loans Department. "Customers… want to have the best deals available in financing. With BDO Auto Loans, we can give them good rates, good service and good deals. We can even help them source their vehicles."

Expect more from Banco de Oro!

"Expect us to give you value for money," declares Rolando C. Tanchanco, EVP & Consumer Lending Head of Banco De Oro. "We will strive to give the best deals to our customers – not just in auto loans, but in our other consumer loan products as well. We will find ways to keep our customers happy and give them the best financing deals."

With this level of passionate service to the customer, how can you expect anything less?

(Advt'l)



Yamaha introduces first solo bike model

By Alex Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—Yamaha recently launched its first solo bike model which it hopes would propel it back to the country's top slot in motorcycle distribution, a position it had held for 32 consecutive years.

Hybrid automatic

The Yamaha Mio, a hybrid automatic that promises to elevate the standards of a smooth and comfortable ride, was launched in Dumaguete City—dubbed as "the Motorcycle Capital of the Philippines"—in ceremonies held to coincide with the city's 56th charter anniversary.

"The Mio has a 115 cc engine with the power of a 125 cc while promising an economical range of up to 58 kilometers per liter under ideal conditions," said Angel Fararons, Norkis Yamaha's marketing manager for the Visayas and Mindanao.

The Mio is driven by the V-belt, used by big bikes like the Harley Davidson, while its Continuous Variable Transmission (CVT) uses the same technology as the one used in automatic cars.

But potential buyers who marvel at the bike's many personalized variations will find that they will have to shell out twice more than the price of China-made motorcycles, which have already flooded the domestic market. The Mio's introductory price is P64,000.

Optimism

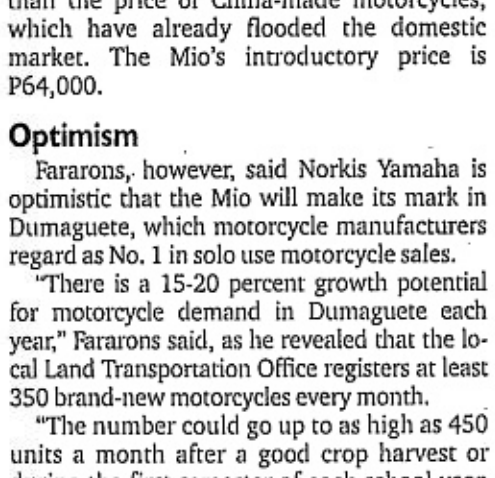
Fararons, however, said Norkis Yamaha is optimistic that the Mio will make its mark in Dumaguete, which motorcycle manufacturers regard as No. 1 in solo use motorcycle sales.

"There is a 15-20 percent growth potential for motorcycle demand in Dumaguete each year," Fararons said, as he revealed that the local Land Transportation Office registers at least 350 brand-new motorcycles every month.

"The number could go up to as high as 450 units a month after a good crop harvest or during the first semester of each school year, as dealers target the student population aged 15-17," he said.

Fararons attributed the high sales of motorcycles in Dumaguete to the nearness of destinations and a supportive local government unit, which provides for specific parking areas for motorcycles.

The Philippines sells about 300,000 motorcycles each year, which is still low compared to neighboring countries Vietnam (750,000) and Thailand (1 million).



PLAQUE UNVEILING
Prince Andrew (right), United Kingdom's special representative for international trade and investment, leads last week's unveiling of a commemorative plaque marking the formal opening of Jaguar-Land Rover Ortigas showroom in Pasig City. He is assisted by Jaguar-Land Rover Philippines president and chair Wellington Soong.

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback:
inquirer life name/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**
Chief of Correspondents **Pam Pastor**

Christmas blowout

The Big Day is still a couple of weeks away, but we want you to know how much we care about you

You asked us to help you redecorate your room, so we sent some fab designers from PSID to lend you a hand.

Your wardrobe needed an update, so Raya Mananquil and Corey Wills took you on a shopping spree, thanks to Citibank.

You said you needed to relax. We gave you fifty Chocolate Lovers Body Scrub treatments from Pinnacle Healthpointe Spa.

It's potluck season so we're arming you with great recipes to make your friends' mouths water.

To keep you entertained, we have stories on the recent visits of Joshua Payne and The Barbs.

To inspire you, we have an article on the Galing Pilipino Movement—a group devoted to empowering the Filipino youth.

We'll also tell you how you can be part of our Christmas and yearend specials.

And since we're sure that you want to give a little of yourself to the victims of the recent typhoons that struck our nation, we've listed ways by which you can help.

Because 2bU! reader, your wish is our command.

For more wishes, e-mail us at Ls_2bu@inquirer.com.ph.

Makeover magic!

By Vanessa Arellano Doctor

With help from intrepid PSID students, three lucky chaps got their wish to have their personal space overhauled for free

The Philippine School of Interior Design and 2bu! held a contest last month for readers who wanted to get their personal spaces jazzed up for free.

Nearly a hundred applications flooded our inbox, everyone pleading for an overhaul. Three winners were eventually named: Papuz Apolinario, Eric Anacay and Jun Ongteco.

Here, we present how three bands of creative PSID students transformed the bedrooms of the lucky three from drab to total fab.

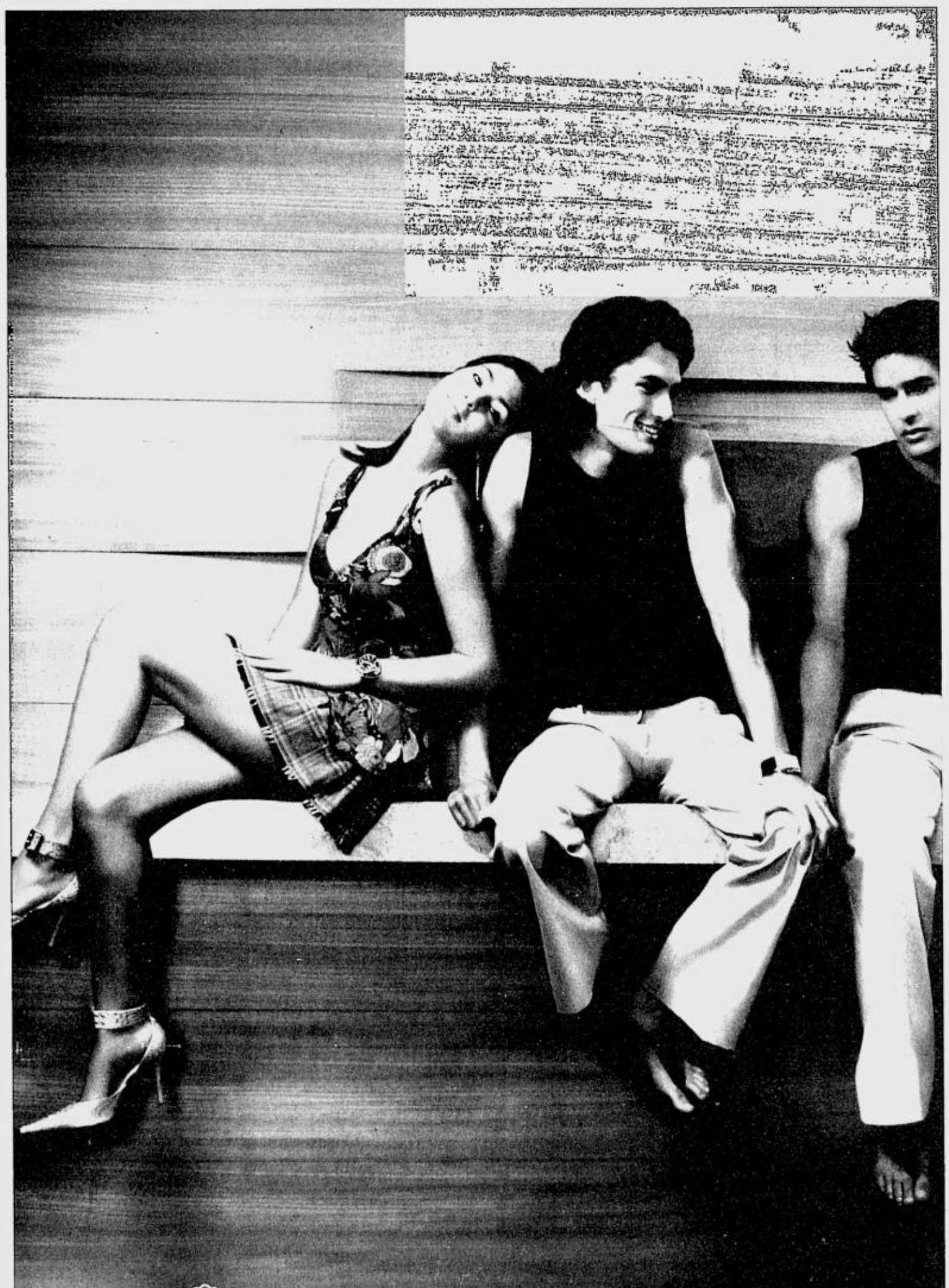
Clutter queen

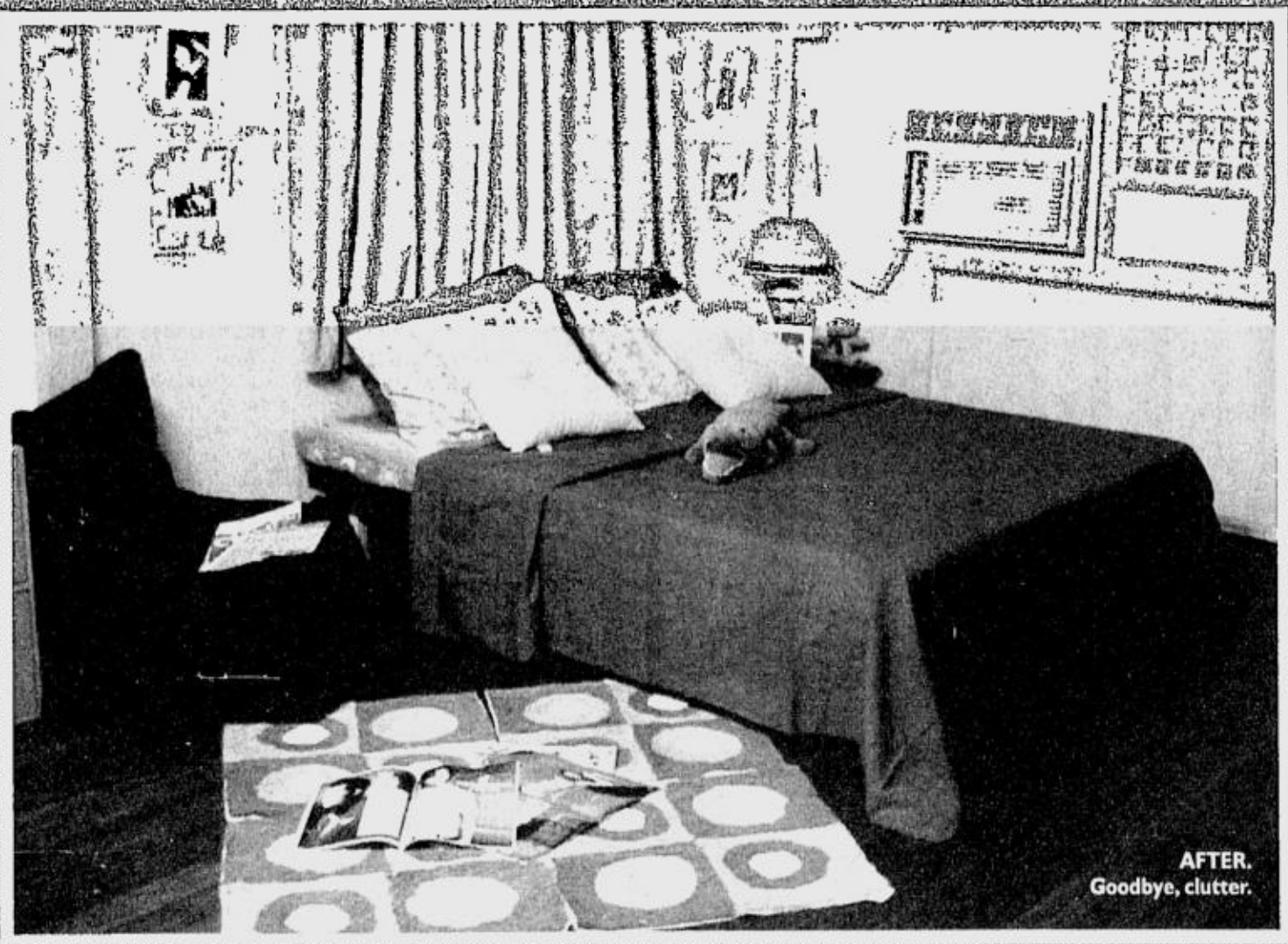
"My room's a total mess," 22-year-old Papuz Apolinario warned beforehand. "It used to be my parents' room, so some of their old stuff are still here and I never really got the time to arrange everything. Plus, some of my friends also stash their things here, so the room just got tinier and tinier, as the knickknacks began to pile up and add to my belongings."

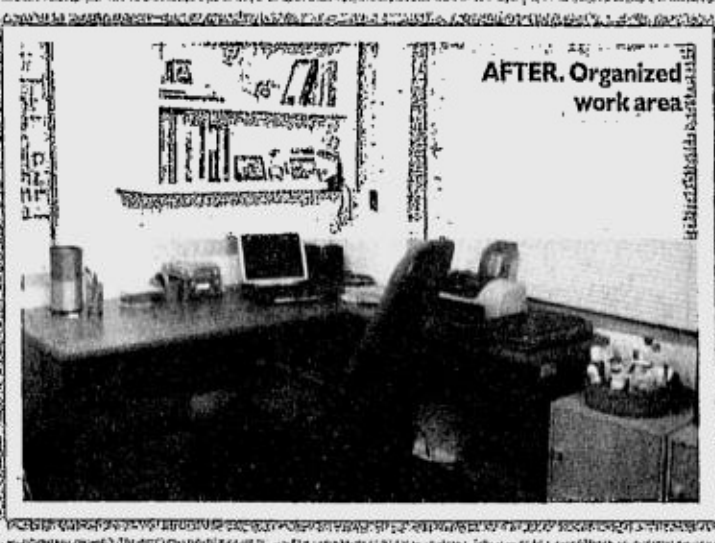
The team assigned to wrestle with her space—Leanore Lee, Eunice Ong and David Yu—were also in their early 20's. If they were shocked at the disarray, they barely showed it.

Papuz is a basketball fanatic, which explains why there were about three clocks on the walls with the sport's logo all over and why there were more than a dozen posters of anything basketball-related plastered

CLUTTER/ D2




AFTER. Goodbye, clutter.


AFTER. Organized work area

BEFORE. The mess before the makeover

EUNICE, Papuz and Lea

Clutter queen

From page D1

on every available space. Hey, the girl adores the game!

Group leader Lea Lee summed up the challenge. "There was a lot of clutter and the paint on the walls were starting to peel off. The colors were also a bit mismatched. Before the makeover, the room looked more like a work area than a bedroom. A lot of stuff definitely had to go."

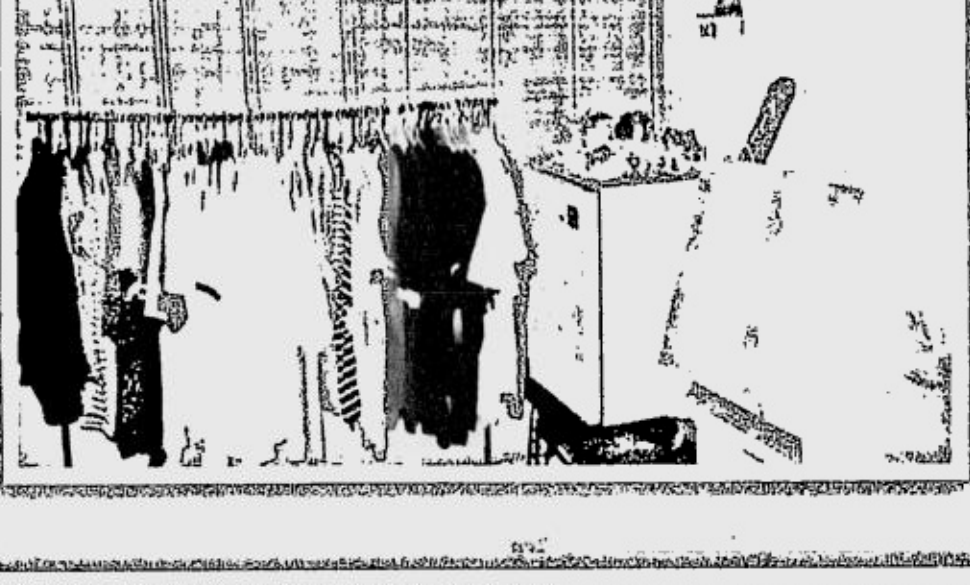
After nearly a week of paint jobs, rearrangements and junk evictions, the room looked totally new—wider and more inviting! The walls have been painted cooler shades of blue and green, and some of the previously unnoticed spaces are now accessible storage areas. Bravo!

Fab Finds:

2 pcs Velour throw pillows: light green, P279.75
2 pcs Velour throw pillows: light blue, P279.75
4 sets ARQ Curtain Linen Button; mid-dlength panel drapes, linen; P 799.75
2 sets ARQ glass curtains; full length, P899.75
1 set beige mini blinds; 60" x 50", P599.75
1 set beige mini blinds; 54" x 50", P549.75
2 pcs Bright Ideas candles, P259.75
2 pcs Fantasy lamp, P289.75
4 units Chenille bath mat; Target design, P369.75
2 units Gaylen cabinet, P795
1 unit Sax CD/DVD Tower, P995
All items are available at Our Home, SM Megamall; Paint by Boysen

BEFORE. Sore sight

...RY GODPARENTS. ...pua's makeover team


BEFORE. This space is begging for an overhaul.

AFTER. This is a room for romance and relaxation.

Sitecouple

When Jun and Ima Ongteco married and decided to turn Jun's room into something fit for a family, they thought of transforming his bachelor's space into something more zen-like.

A couple of paint jobs were expected to create that cool, serene ambiance, but the growing pile of knickknacks at odd sections of the room eventually defeated the goal of simplicity.

When baby Raphie came, the extra furniture started to add to the already cluttered space. The crib added to the multiplying boxes of shoes, books and toys, which had turned themselves into little hills of junk.

PSID students Joby Belmonte, Marie Ching-Imperial, Alan Pascua and Janet Dyquiatco-Torio clearly had a lot of work in their hands.

"The room had the workings of a bachelor's pad made odd-looking by a number of kids' stuff. So the group did away with the posters on the walls which screamed 'the bachelor days' and rearranged the furniture to create more space to move," team leader and PSID student council president Joby Belmonte explained.

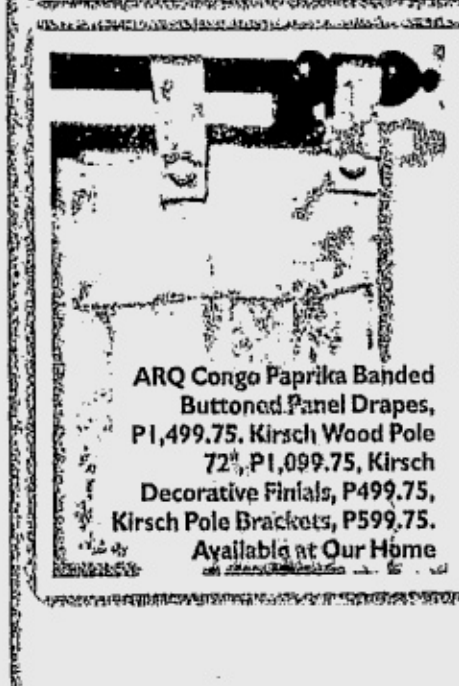
Raphie was eventually transferred to his own nursery, so the group was given more floor space to work with.

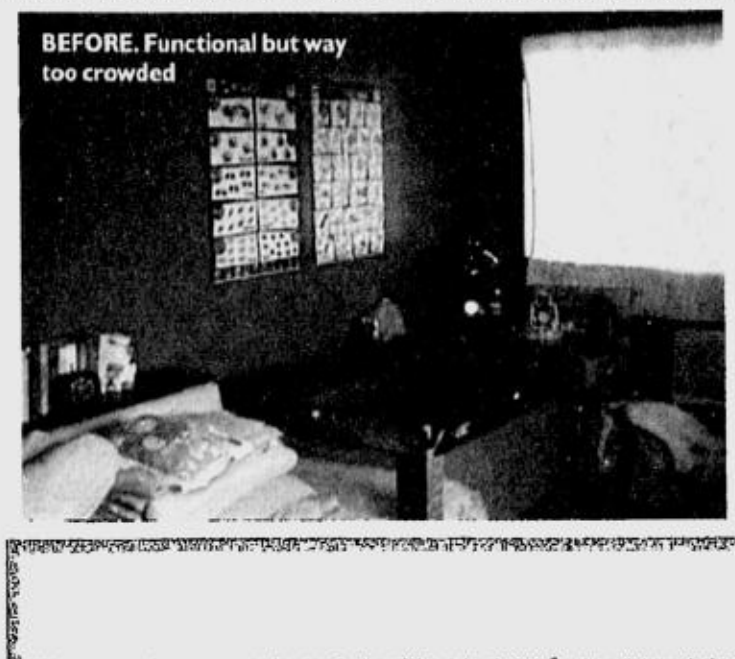
A few days after, Jun and Ima's room had been magically converted from a cramped family area into a master suite that could give hotel decorators a run for their money!

Fab finds:

Aries 3-layer Book Case, P 1,295
Deacon 3-drawer Night Table, P2,795
ARQ Congo Paprika Banded Buttoned Panel Drapes, P 1,499.75
Kirsch Wood Pole 72" (ARQ), P 1,099.75
Kirsch Decorative Finials (ARQ), P 499.75
Kirsch Pole Brackets (ARQ), P599.75
Comforter by Canadian (Color Alternatives by Dots & Stripes), P3,349.75
All items are available at Our Home, SM Megamall; Paint by Boysen
Contact details: ness_doctor@yahoo.com; 0917-9188570

PAINTERS hard at work


ARQ Congo Paprika Banded Buttoned Panel Drapes, P1,499.75. Kirsch Wood Pole 72", P1,099.75, Kirsch Decorative Finials, P499.75, Kirsch Pole Brackets, P599.75. Available at Our Home


BEFORE. Functional but way too crowded

GREAT FINDS. Aries 3-layer Bookcase, P1,295. Deacon 3-drawer Night Table, P2,795. Available at Our Home

Notes with wit and heart

THEIRS stood out from hundreds of e-mails.

Papuz Apolinario listed reasons why her room deserved a makeover:

"Disorganized. That would be the best word to describe it. Every time I try to fix it, the difference I make is always barely noticeable.

"Stuffed. It is—literally! Half of the things in my room are probably junk, like the very old computer or purchases that I don't even remember making. Even the bed hardly has space for me to sleep on.

"Jurassic. When it comes to style—especially the walls. This is probably because I live in my grandparents' house.

"Challenging. Giving my room a makeover will require really creative minds to completely give it a new look. I have always wanted to have a thematic room but have never seen it happen.

"Luck. I'm trying mine... Just like what was mentioned in the ad, fairy godmothers, make my wish come true!"

We liked the wit, the photos were challenging and so Papuz's fairy godparents heeded her call.

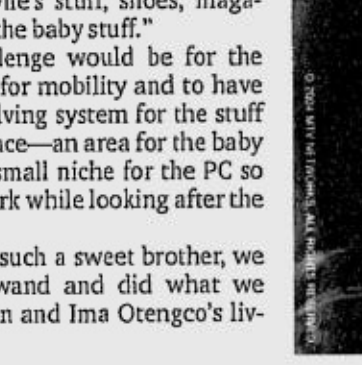
Eric Anacay summoned his creative powers and made a very entertaining Powerpoint presentation that grabbed us and refused to let go.

Richie Otengco wrote to us, asking us to give his brother and sister-in-law a hand in making more space for their growing family.

"I'd like to surprise my brother and his family through this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to have their room undergo a rebirth. Now that there have been new additional family members in the house, his room is starting to get filled up by all kinds of of things. When we first moved in, we had comics, toys and CDs. Now we have his wife's stuff, shoes, magazines and of course, the baby stuff."

"The design challenge would be for the room to have space for mobility and to have some storage or shelving system for the stuff to have its proper place—an area for the baby stuff, the TV, and a small niche for the PC so they can do officework while looking after the baby."

Because Richie is such a sweet brother, we waved our magic wand and did what we could to improve Jun and Ima Otengco's living space.



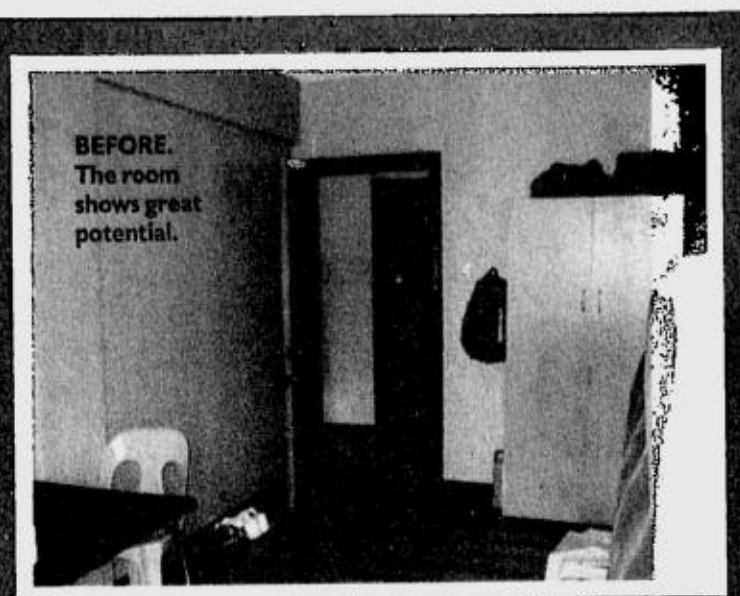
Business Meeting

Dinner Date

Weekend Get together

Special moments.

Special socks.



BEFORE. The white walls are calling out for a splash of color

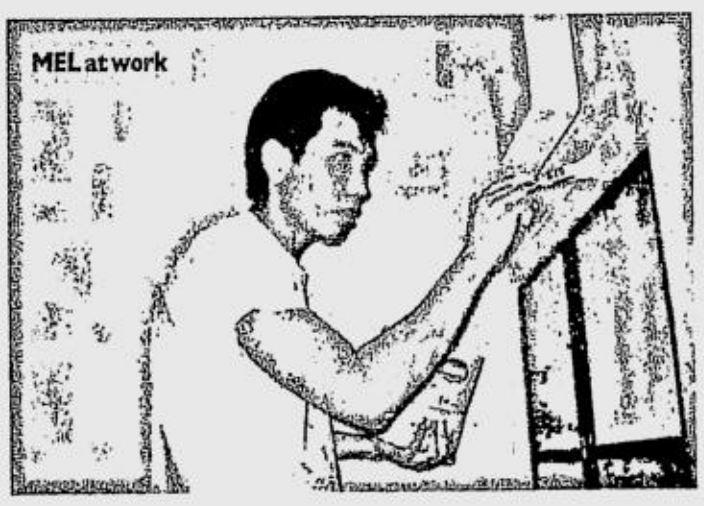
LENNIE and Chico mixing paints

Happy bachelor

From page D2

BECAUSE computer programmer Eric Anacay really lives in Laguna, it was no surprise to Lenny Ang, Chico Cristobal, Mel Cardino and Jenneth Sy to find his weekday studio unit practically empty, save for a small refrigerator, a mattress and a coffee table.

Since the unit was only about 20 sq m, it was important that Eric's bed could be tucked away easily should he have guests around. The group decided to get rid of Eric's air mattress, which took up a lot of space, and replaced it with a sofa bed.



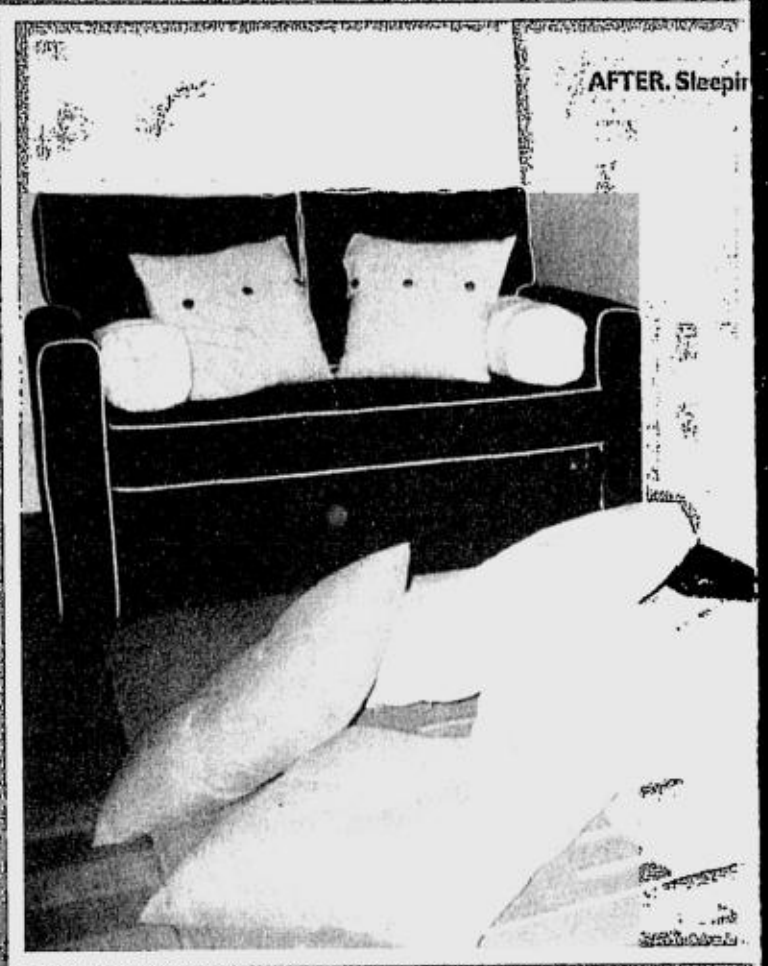
The original murky green wall color had to go in favor or softer hues of blue and green, to give the room a more relaxing ambience. And because Eric's unit was practically a bachelor's pad, the room needed to have four things: a sleeping area, a dining table, a small kitchen and a place to entertain friends.

The first thing one would notice upon entering the place was the kitchen. To remedy this, the team moved Eric's bulky closet nearer the kitchen sink to block off its view from the main hallway. The sofa bed was placed against the wall near the door, to give it more space when opened.

And to complement the rest of the area, several accessories such as candles, throw pillows, vases and an area rug were added, giving the room a homey, cozy atmosphere.

Fab finds:

Shalicia sofa bed with piping blue and khaki 31 ½ x 51 ½, P8,295
Side table; Gaylen Cabinet with 2 doors Wenge, P795
Area rug, Crema/Blue Design, P2,795
Picture frame, P169.75
2 pcs Plump and Snooze throw pillows in camel, P 279.75
3 pcs Plump and Snooze throw pillows in navy blue, P279.75
Carrington reg folding hamper in black, P359.75
Capriccio vase in yellow, P469.75
Capriccio vase in green, P 519.75
Capriccio vase in blue, P549.75
Tab curtain canvas, 56" W x 86", P899.75
2 pcs Chambray with buttons, 17" x 17", P 349.75
2 pcs Blue shade square box type, 22" x 22", P549.75
2 pcs. Blue shade square bolster, P249.75
Curtain rod with brackets, P900
All items are available at Our Home, SM Megamall; Paint by Boysen



A guy, a girl and a mini

Text by Vanessa Arellano Doctor
2bU! Correspondent
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

TWO 2bU! readers last week went home with an armload of goodies after Citibank Clear Visa Mini awarded them P5,000 each to have a shopping spree at the Edsa Shangri-La Mall.

Twenty-three-year-old Cedric Ira Aquino and 26-year-old Chi Arao, assisted by top models and product endorsers Corey Wills and Raya Mananquil, experienced the purchasing power held by the Citibank Clear Visa Mini as they raided Adidas, Carbon, Kickers, Planet Reebok, Time Depot, Blue Kitchen, Bayo and Replay—just to name a few.

Chi and Cedric were chosen from a number of "Why I Want A Fashion Makeover" e-mail entries received from Nov. 10-24. The shopping spree kicked off with a hearty lunch at Café Provencal, followed by the trips to the stores. Raya and Corey helped the winners pick out new outfits for casual and party wear, all of which were paid through Raya's Clear

A GUY/ D6

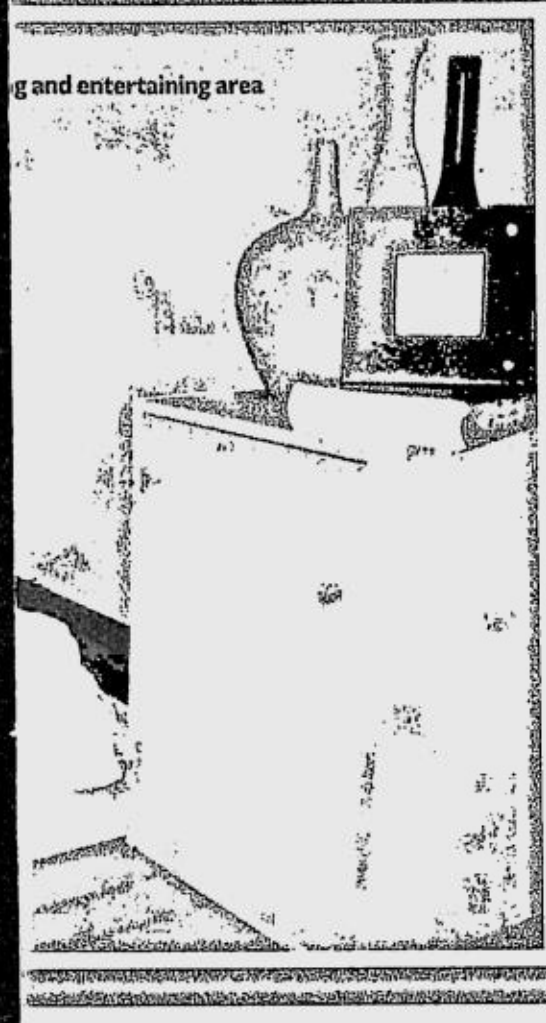
Citibank Clear Visa Mini assists the fashion makeover of two fun individuals

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

FORE. Side table and laundry basket

AFTER. The color is so easy on the eyes.

(SEATED) Lenny Ang, Jenneth Sy, Mel Cardino and Chico Cristobal



g and entertaining area

www.nokia.com.ph

NOKIA
CONNECTING PEOPLE

Make a bold fashion statement.

Introducing true artistic flamboyance and ultra-chic attitude embodied in a distinctly bold collection from Nokia.

Bold is Stunning

NOKIA 7260
Intense. Striking.

- Built-in Camera
- Video Recorder & Player
- Built-in Stereo FM Radio
- Clothes & Shoe Size Converter
- 65,536 Color Screen
- Tri-band

Coming Soon!

Bold is Spontaneous

NOKIA 7270
Delightfully Impulsive

- Fold Phone with User-changeable Snap-on Textile Wraps
- Built-in Camera
- Video Recorder & Player
- Built-in Stereo FM Radio
- Clothes & Shoe Size Converter
- 65,536 Color Screen
- Video & Audio Streaming
- Tri-band

Coming Soon!

Bold is Provocative

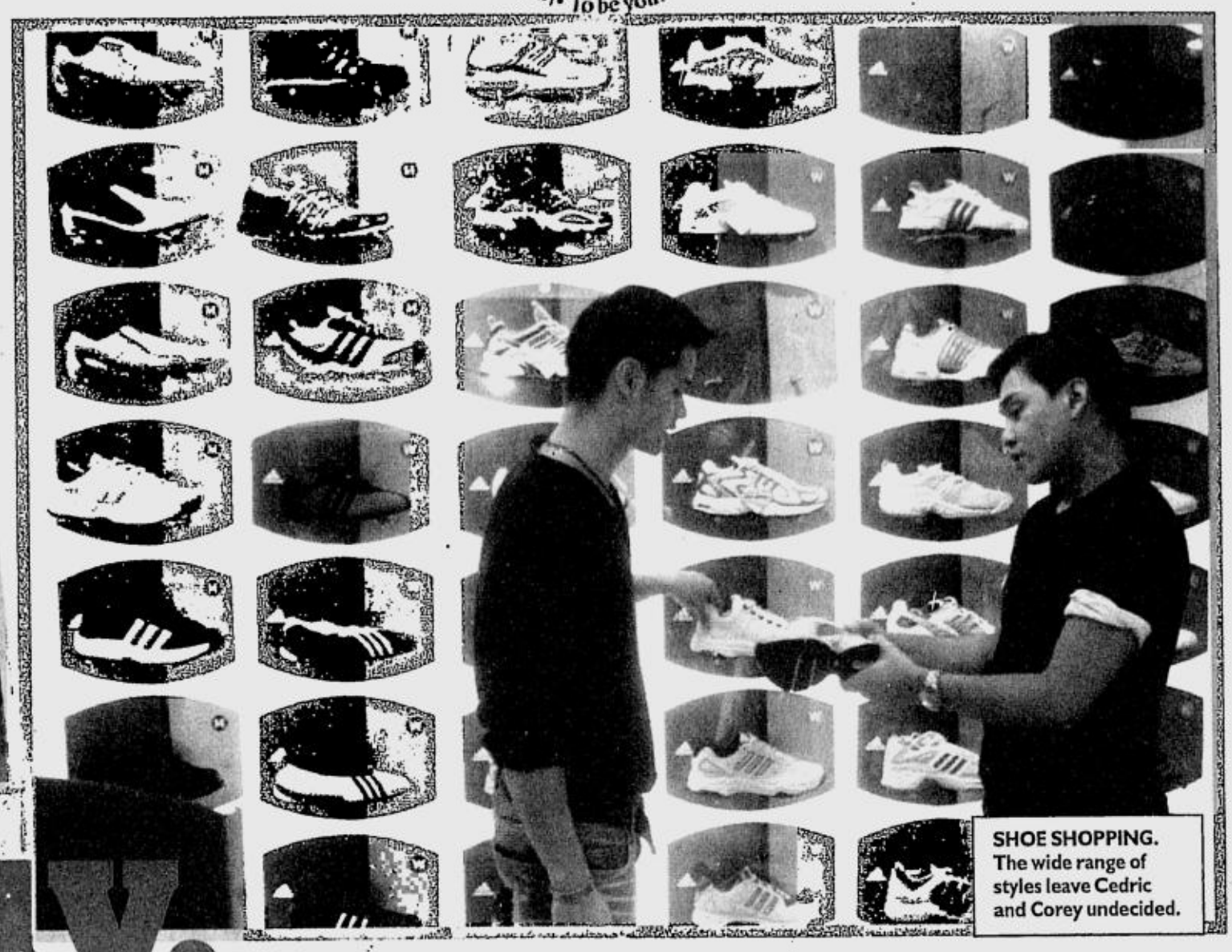
NOKIA 7280
Uncover My Secrets

- Built-in Camera
- Unique Navi-spinner™
- Built-in Stereo FM Radio
- Quick Slide
- Pulsating Light
- Video & Audio Streaming
- Bluetooth
- Tri-band
- 65,536 Color Screen

Copyright © 2004 Nokia. All rights reserved. Nokia and Nokia Connecting People are registered trademarks of Nokia Corporation.

As an assurance of quality, purchase only from authorized Nokia Dealers. For inquiries, call the Nokia Careline at (02) 886-1234.

RAYA helps Chi with her skirt.



SHOE SHOPPING. The wide range of styles leave Cedric and Corey undecided.

A guy, a girl and a mini

CHI poses in front of Bayo, one of the day's stops.

From page D4

Card Mini.

At the end of the day, Chi was able to walk away with a pair of pants from Bayo, a funky skirt, four tops and two new pairs of shoes. Meanwhile, Cedric happily took home a new trucker shirt, an Adidas jersey, a pair of jeans, a sporty cap and a bottle of his favorite designer perfume.

Citibank Clear Visa mini is the first of its size in the country. Even with its relatively minute 40 x 60 mm frame, users still enjoy all the perks and privileges that come with the regular-sized cards. A small hole at the bottom left side allows for convenience and ease of carriage, as it can be slipped into a key chain, a mobile phone or any other carry-along.

With nearly all lifestyle gadgets moving toward compactness and additional functionality, the Clear Visa Mini completes the need of a fast-moving, thrill-seeking generation.

Apply for a Clear Visa Mini before Jan. 31, 2005, and get a chance to win a Samsung MP3 player. See promo ads for details.

E-mail the author at ness_doctor@yahoo.com

CHI and Raya rummage through the racks.

DOWN, DOWN, DOWN. There's still a lot of shopping to be done.

THERE'S nothing like an afternoon of shopping to bring two girls together.

CEDRIC (left) and Corey pause to pose for the camera.

RAYA pays for Cedric's purchases with her Clear Visa Mini.

Selfless Giles

By Pam Pastor

What was supposed to be another contest turned into a lesson in generosity

I OPEN my closet and it never takes me more than five minutes to decide which polo to wear because I only have three," Giles Aquino wrote in his blog.

After reading this, a friend of Giles decided to join 2bU! and Citibank's makeover promo in behalf of Giles. "I'm writing to you not because of me but because of our friend. He is selfless, loving, generous and he sacrifices his own needs and puts his family's needs first," the friend wrote in his entry. If he won, the shopping spree was intended to become an early Christmas gift for Giles.

And Giles certainly deserves an early Christmas gift.

"Si Giles, *napakabait na bata*," his mom says proudly. "*Tinitipid niya ang sarili niya pero kami ng mga kapatid niya hindi.*"

He works hard and saves what he earns, splurging only on his family. When one brother graduated, Giles' gift for him was the new mobile phone he's always wanted. He takes his mom out for shopping and salon treatments.

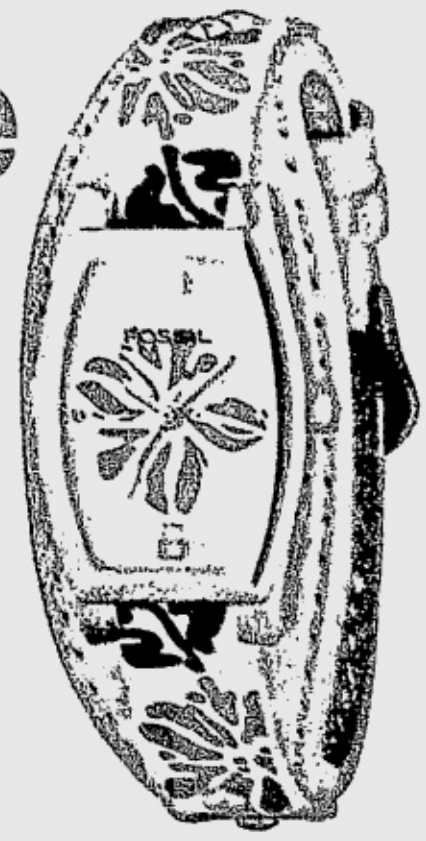
We called Giles one afternoon and informed him that he won.

His response was unexpected. "*Uhh, puwede 'yung kapatid ko na lang?*"

Although surprised, we agreed. Giles had willingly passed on his shopping spree to his younger brother, Cedric.

The makeover was supposed to be a gift for the readers, but Giles ended up giving us so much more.

Time to give



THEY come in leather, metal, plastic, and rubber. Present-day watches do more than just tell time, they have become these high-tech mini gadgets and fashion accessories that say–wrist power!

Power brands such as Nike, Diesel, Kenneth Cole, Lacoste, Fossil, and DKNY have ventured into this trend by designing stylish timepieces for sports, casual and formal wear that fit their brand image.

Under the sportswear giant Nike, intricate features for workout and athletic training were incorporated in designs under the Monitoring, Imara, and Oregon lines. Presto and D-Line are simpler, but retain lines and colors that are hip to wear than your usual sports watch.

Fashion icons Diesel, DKNY, Lacoste, and Fossil watches make use of leather, metal and rubber, and sometimes mix two materials for more unconventional and unique shapes. A wide range of style is available that would suit most tastes and personalities. Their analog timepieces feature distinctive face designs while digital watches are marked with innovative displays showing the time and date.

Kenneth Cole and Reaction lines are both classic and inventive. Using a mix of metal, textile and leather, it achieves designs that would satisfy the conservative to the adventurous watch wearer.

All watch brands are available at L Time Studio, a store with a unique concept in watch retail. It evolves with the present consumer mindset of lifestyle shopping, with emphasis on fashion, sports and technology-centered timepieces.

L Time Studio branches are located in Shangri-La Plaza, SM Megamall, Robinsons Galleria, Alabang Town Center, Festival Mall, SM Pampanga, SM Bicutan, SM Baguio, SM Department Store in Makati, and the newest addition at the Power Plant mall in Rockwell, Makati. The company is also set to open three more stores at the Robinsons Mall in Pioneer; Market! Market!, Fort Bonifacio Global City; and Limketkai Mall in the province of Cagayan de Oro.

The Need to Exceed and Succeed

Every parent nurtures high hopes and big dreams for their children right from the time they are born. Moms and Dads want them to be and do and have the best. They want their children to excel in everything and exceed all expectations, even in height. Parents are proud when their teenagers grow taller than they. An above-average height is often regarded as a tribute to the parents' excellent care, providing their kids with the right diet and the right multivitamins. Some even perceive height to be a factor that can contribute to the eventual success of their sons and daughters in their jobs and careers. They may be right!

Research links height to career success

Researches have indicated that there is a definite advantage to being tall, particularly for teenagers. In the study conducted by three highly respected American economists ("The Effect of Adolescent Experience on Labor Market Outcomes: The Case of Height" by Nicola Persico and Andrew Postlewaite of the University of Pennsylvania and Dan Silverman of the University of Michigan), it was "found that being tall confers an earnings advantage in the workplace." It showed that an individual's height affects his or her ability to rise easily up the corporate ladder within an organization. They uncovered evidence to bolster their theory that high school teenagers who are of above-average height develop greater self-esteem and readily take on leadership roles. Feeling looked up to, literally and figuratively, these tall teenagers would very likely carry this self-confidence into their adult years when they pursue their careers.

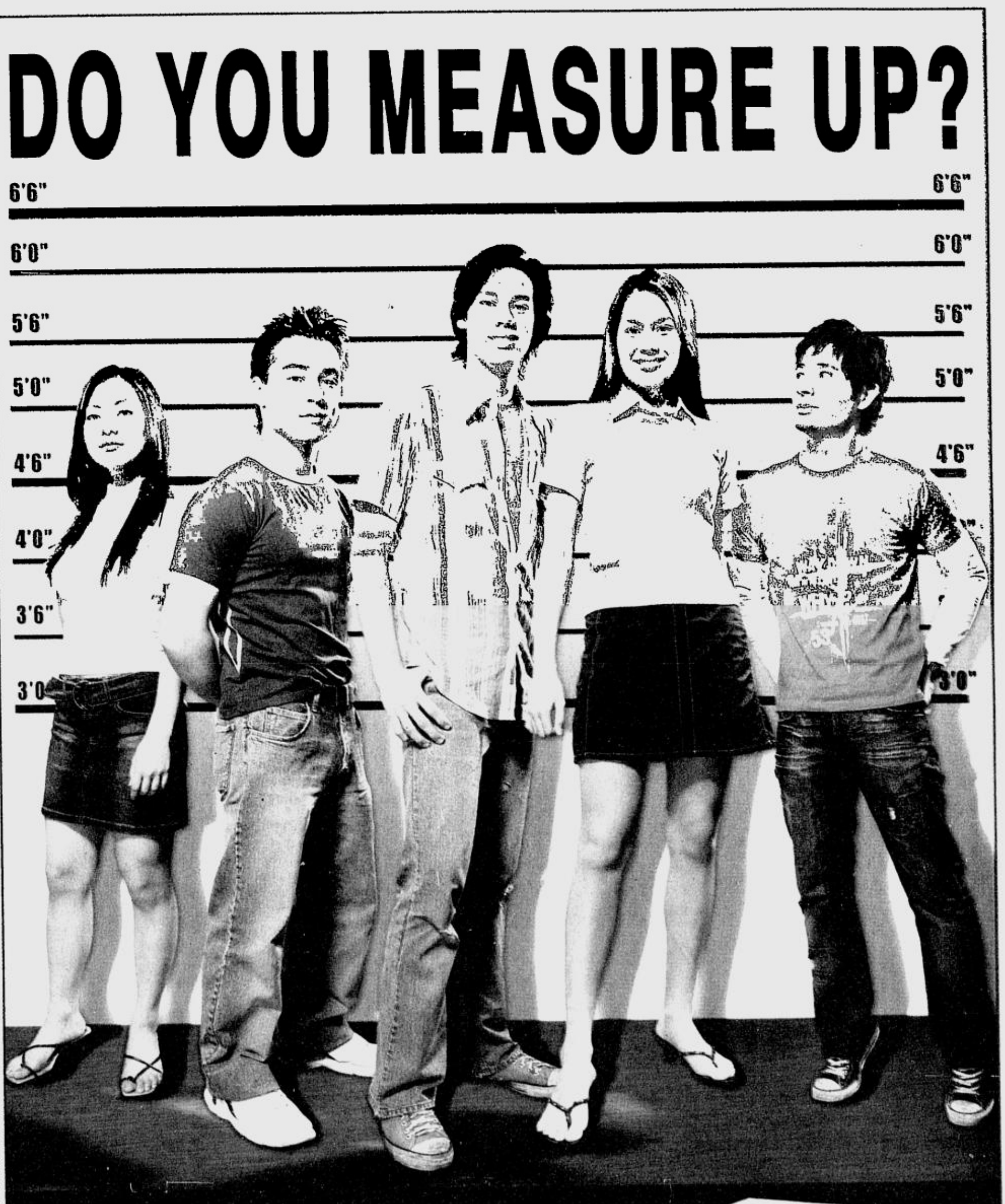
Make the most of the puberty years

The study affirms the importance of making the most of a child's puberty years. Puberty is a critical stage marked by rapid growth spurts and physical changes. The puberty years – which usually begins at 10 or 11 years old for girls and 12 or 13 years old for boys up to the age of 22 generally for both see a dramatic increase in the amount of calories and nutrients needed, as well as remarkable growth spurts in height.

Realizing this, Tynor Drug House, one of the country's first all-Filipino pharmaceutical companies, was the first to develop in 1998 a food supplement with multivitamins especially for teenagers Cherifer PGM, with Chlorella Growth Factor or CGF. Through the years, Cherifer has become a well-recognized brand in the country. In fact, Cherifer Syrup with Taurine and CGF for toddlers and young kids is widely prescribed by pediatricians and family doctors. Its well-balanced formula provides proper nutritional support for active growing children, strengthens the immunity system, and helps promote weight and height gain. As kids reach their adolescence, though, their nutritional requirements change To meet these requirements, Tynor developed Cherifer PGM. "PGM" stands for Pubertal Growth Maximizer.

By its very name, Cherifer PGM helps ensure that these kids not only get the full share of their nutrient requirements during their growth spurt years, but also helps enhance and even maximize their height potential because it contains Chlorella Growth Factor (CGF). Cherifer PGM utilizes only high-grade, concentrated Chlorella Growth Factor. This extraordinary ingredient has a remarkable ability to stimulate tissue growth and promote height increase, according to a child's genetic potential, without causing unnecessary weight gain or adverse side effects.

With an adequately proper diet and Cherifer PGM, teenagers can fulfill the need to exceed their average height expectations and have greater confidence to succeed in whatever they want to do.



BEST COPY AVAILABLE

YOUR OWN RULES.

WHEN YOU CAN BE ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD,

IT'S A PRIVILEGE JUST TO BE HOME.

Globe PLATINUM *presents*

LEA SALONGA

HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

Araneta Coliseum, Dec. 8, 2004

15% ticket discount, exclusively for Globe Platinum members.

Globe Platinum is proud to bring home the voice that captivated the world. Just present your Globe Platinum card at TicketNet outlets to enjoy your discount privilege. 5% surcharge for credit purchases. For inquiries, please call TicketNet at 911-5555. Experience Platinum for real. Call 730-1000 to subscribe to a Platinum Plan or G-Flex Platinum (P5000, P7000, or P10,000 MSF).

Share holiday cheer with your callers, with Lea's ringback tones.

To activate your myGlobe Ringback, text <CODE> to 2332. Ex. Text RA107 to 2332. Each ringback is P30 for 30 days. Your myGlobe Ringback will be activated within 24 hours.

To listen to a myGlobe Ringback, text H <SPACE> <CODE> to 2332. Ex. Text H RA108 to 2332. You will receive an SMS message prompt to call 2332. Each text request is P2.50. Calls to 2332 are P5/minute.

Christmas Songs

TITLES	Code	TITLES	Code
Grown up Christmas List	RA107	Sana Ngayong Pasko	RA111
Pasko Na Sinta Ko	RA108	Even Santa Fell In Love	RA112
The Gift	RA109	The Christmas Song	RA113
It's Just another New Year's Eve	RA110	Twelve Days of Christmas	RA114

Other Hits

TITLES	Code
Friend of Mine	RA115
Even If	RA116
I Remember the Boy	RA117
Can We Stop and Talk	RA118
Fallin'	RA119

ABS-CBN BMG RECORDS (PILIPINAS) INC. BAYO

making great things possible Globe HANDYPHONE

Promo valid from December 1 to 8, 2004. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5890, Series 2004

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback:
Inquirer life name/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Chocolate for everyone

We originally planned to give out three treatments. But since you clamored for it, 50 lucky 2bU! readers will be enjoying several hours of pampering

By Pam Pastor

A few months ago, we came out with a story on Pinnacle HealthPointe Spa's Chocolate Lovers Body Scrub treatment. Then we asked you to tell us why you deserve that treatment.

For days, messages poured in from different people. We were overwhelmed.

You gave us all kinds of reasons—new jobs, a successful thesis defense, birthdays, the unfulfilled dream to go to a spa, stress, the intense need for a break.

Some people wrote to us, asking that we give the prize not to them but their loved ones. There was a girl whose best friend needed cheering up because she just broke up with her boyfriend, another whose best friend needed pampering because she just got married, and countless kids who wanted to win the spa treatment for their parents.

We received letters from students, call center agents, young moms, bankers, lawyers, even a soldier. A cat even wrote to us for her master.

One brilliant reader said, "Who knows, maybe you can give all of us treatments.."

And we thought, why not?

If Oprah can afford to give over two hundred cars, surely we can afford to give fifty spa treatments, right?

It is Christmas, after all.

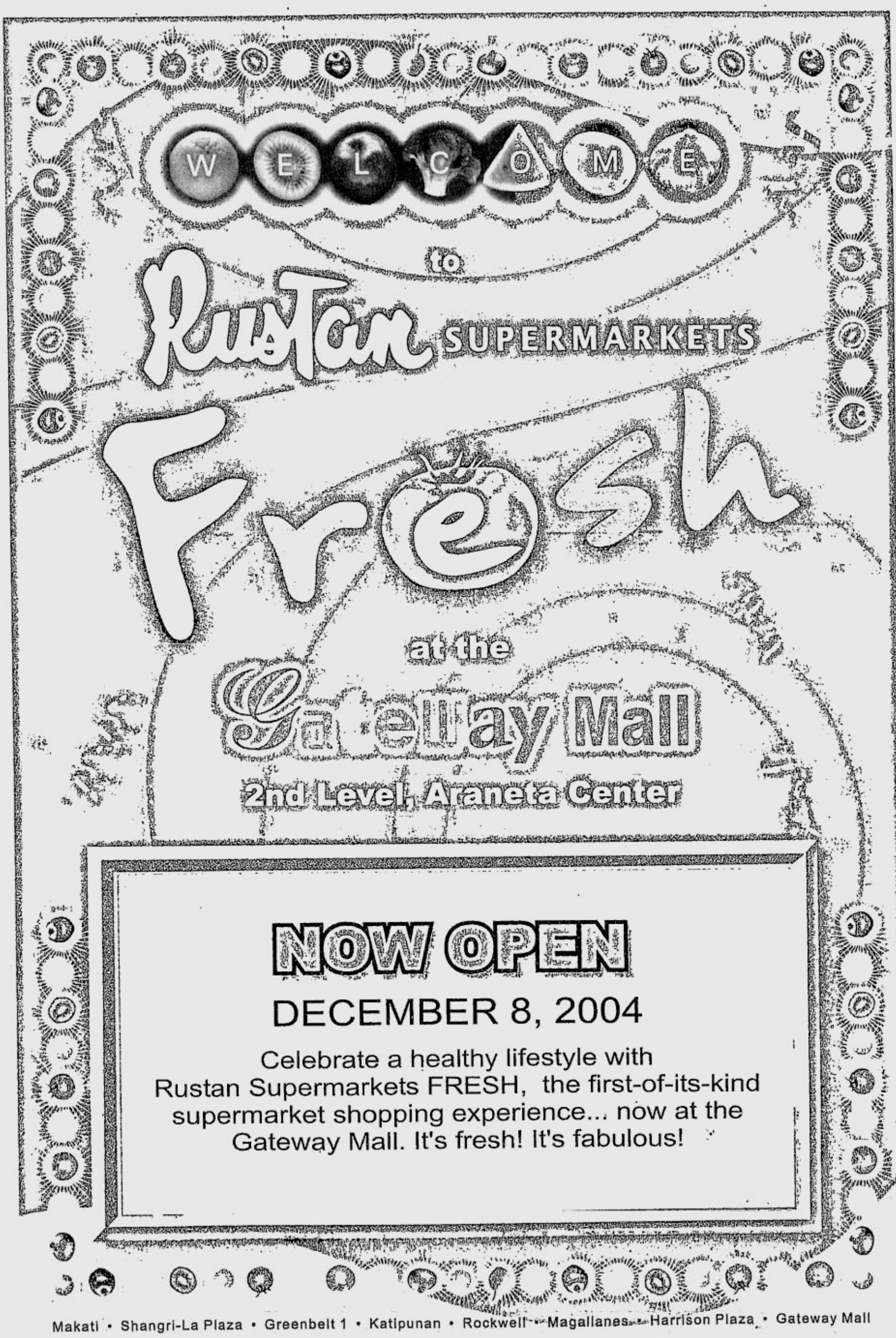
With the help of our wonderful friends from Pinnacle Healthpointe and Inquirer's Marketing Department, we made this dream come true.

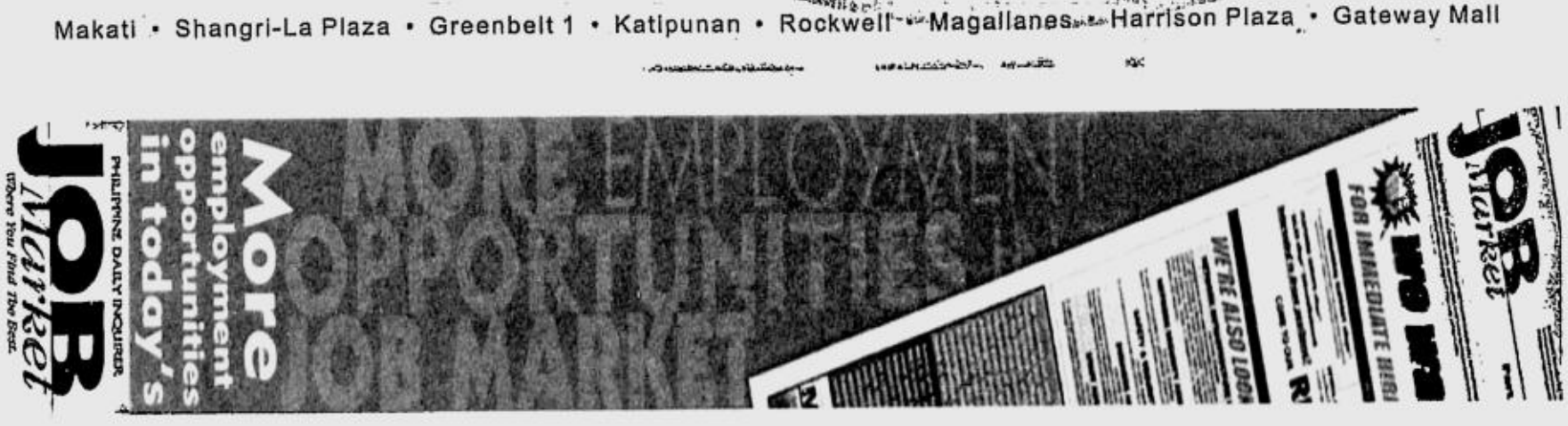
Here are the winners of Pinnacle HealthPointe Spa's Chocolate Lovers Body Scrub treatment:

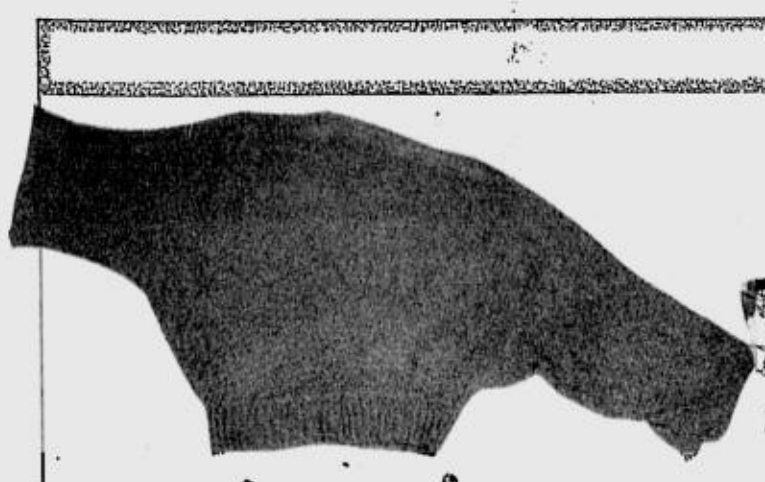
Lala Abes
Jean Alonzo
Tisha Alvarez
Katrina Angela Ambat
Aurora S. Ang
Jennifer Ang
Emelissa B. Apoli
Erte Arellano
Maria Khristina Bacani
Melissa Bagamasbad
Michelle Baleros
Ma Lorna B. Boloabio
Ma. Christie H. Calata
Michelle Co
Melody Marissa A. Dela Cruz
Gillian S. Dunuan
Domi Espejo
Maria Elena M. Frio
Jo Imbong
Mariel Labayen
Camille Labog-Cuevas
Winnie M. Lazaro
Ivy Lee
Christopher John R. Legaspi
Eleanor C. Lopez
Bing P. Lorenzo
Ma. Luisa Concepcion A. Magdael
Christianne Magistrado
Jackie Marcelino
Lotlot Matias
Rachelle Mendoza
Pamela Miranda
Melanie Ong
Myra Ann Pangan
Ellen Pitogo
Charlemagne Quimpo Pobre
Mary Ann I. Rañola
Myla Remo
Donna Horner Roque
Marnee Rosales
Liza del Rosario
Joanna Sabado
Della Sangco
Sherilyn Siy
Sally P. So
Katherine Marie D. Tanyu
Jammie Lynn Tee
Faye Tobias
Meg Yap
Vita O. Zaldivia

Winners may claim their prizes for Inquirer's Marketing Department. Please call Ching Dela Cruz at 8978808.

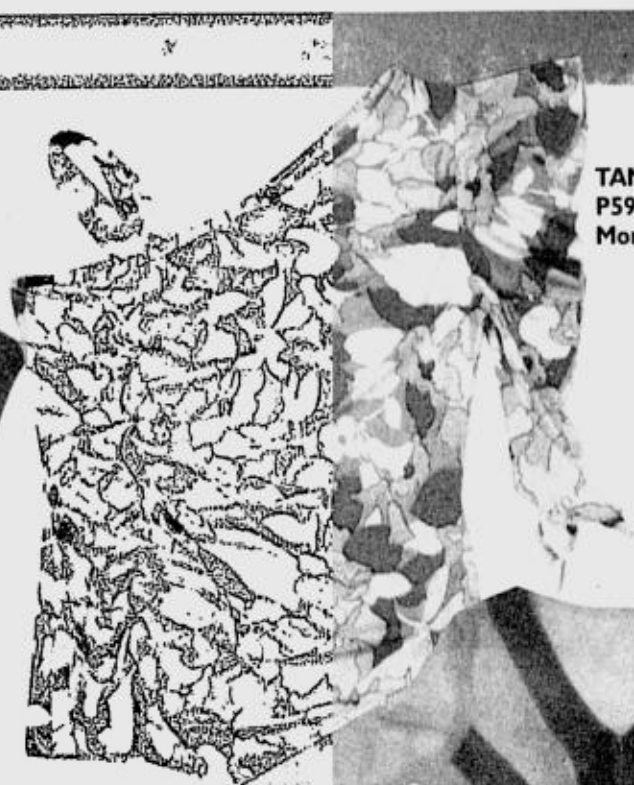
Pinnacle Healthpointe is at the 2/L of the One Luna Lifestyle Center, Felina Parkplace Eastwood City, Libis, QC. Call 4381880, 6333472 and 4385321 or visit www.pinnaclehealthpointe.com.







TAN FAN. Double mesh poncho, P695. Tango



TANGERINE. Top, P599.95. Petit Monde

EARTH TONES. Top, P1,945. Topshop

BLUE top, P895. Tango

2BU FASHION FREAKS

Excess baggage!

By Pam Pastor
Photos by Joseph Agcaoili

These hot picks will give your closet a dose of color and excitement

SOMETIMES, when you are caught in the flurry of pulling out clothes for a photo shoot, you tend to go overboard—especially when too many hot items catch your eye.

The Fashion Freaks certainly know about this.

On these pages, you will find items that recently caught our attention.

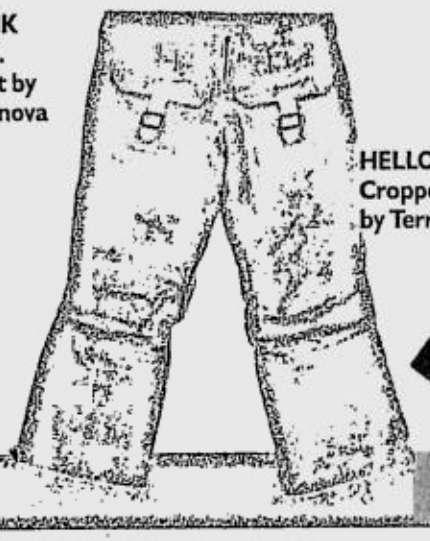
We think they'll catch yours too. And why shouldn't they?

They're fab, and would definitely give your wardrobe a boost for the holidays.

Do you want the fashion freaks to visit your store or see your wares? E-mail us at thefashionfreaks@yahoo.com.

FLIRTY AND FUN. Dress, P1,595. X by Vic Barba

THINK PINK. Jacket by Terranova



HELLO YELLOW. Cropped pants by Terranova

BLAZING BLAZER, P5,399. Mango

TRUE BLUE. Top, P599. Petit Monde

PINKY top, P749.95, Petit Monde

LAYERED top, P5 X by Vic Barba

LILAC LOVE. Top, 1,299. Mango

DRESS FOR LESS, P1,100. Petit Monde

Low-maintenance is cool

PEOPLE who know me well say I am, in many ways, like a guy. I can participate in a heated hirit-fest without surrendering in tears, dissect and analyze basketball games with technical precision, go on an MTV Jackass marathon without flinching, devour truckloads of rice kargador-style, and get ready for any occasion in 15 minutes flat—including a shower.

It helps to know the techniques and have the best products to do every beauty task effectively—that is, in a snap

Unlike some girls (and perhaps the metrosexual population), I WILL NOT get out of bed two hours before I step out the door to accommodate an extra 15 minutes putting on eyeliner or waiting for my moisturizer to penetrate my epidermis.

I don't want to lose face when I stand in front of God at the Pearly Gates while He recaps my entire existence and reveals that I spent more time exfoliating than doing worthwhile activities on Earth.

I am almost embarrassed to admit this, but I am very, very low-maintenance. Embarrassed, because I know that the term inevitably conjures up images of a bedraggled head of hair and an overgrowth of *bigote*.

But I beg to differ. Low-maintenance is more than an adjective to describe my lifestyle or a euphemism for being unforgivably lazy. Low-maintenance has become a talent, a skill, a manifestation of being effectively *kikay* (see my first-ever column dated Sept. 11, 2002 for an in-depth discussion of this concept).

Lora Gahol

It helps, of course, to know the techniques and have the best products to do every beauty task effectively—that is, in a snap! And this, ladies (and metrosexual gentlemen), is what I can help you with. Your low-maintenance lifestyle starts now.

Simple skincare

For the past month or so, I've been sinning against my skin. Due to an extreme urge to permanently Velcro myself to my bed the moment I set foot in my room, I've downgraded my skincare from luxury prods to drugstore mainstays.

Even more disturbing is my cutting down my CTM (that's cleanse-tone-moisturize for you) routine to a *tamad* CM. I was almost expecting blemishes the size of Russia to attack my skin, but I was sidetracked by people saying that my skin looked so healthy!

It could only mean one of two things: it's World Politeness Month or my pared-down regimen actually works. I Googled the former and confirmed there was no such thing, so I'm pretty sure I just picked the right stuff for my face.

For low-maintenance loot, use a mild cleanser that takes away all dirt and grime without depleting your skin's natural moisture, which acts as a built-in defense system. Lay off the chemicals for a while and allow your skin to rebalance itself, as in most cases, altering your skin's "personality" is the culprit behind skin problems.

How do you know you're using a winner? Well, if it doesn't make your face dry and tight. I swear by Dove Facial Foam. I'd willingly do one of those "Whaaaat?" testimonials for a lifetime supply of the product.

I followed the same principle for my moisturizer. Basic is still better. In the morning, I'd put on a moisturizer/sunscreen/makeup base. L'Oreal UV Perfect Tinted Moisturizer is my current fave. Before I conk out at night, I make sure I put on Celeteque Moisturizing Gel for amazingly silky skin without the oil slick when I wake up in the morning.

Minute makeup

Another reason my skin has been behaving extraordinarily well is the amount of makeup I use on a daily basis, which is pretty much next to nothing.

Since my moisturizer also takes care of evening out my skin, all I really have to do is add a hint of color to my Casper complexion with liquid lip and cheek tint, mop off the stain on my lips with clear balm, curl my lashes, and I'm done for the day! I finally know how it feels to have a fresh face.

I never thought the day would come, but I used the last drop of my Mistine Lip and Cheek Tint a couple of weeks ago and haven't replenished my supply.

I've been using Philosophy the Supernatural in the meantime, and I love how it immediately cools my skin and wakes me up especially on mornings when I'm as up-and-about as a turtle with a sprained ankle.

My lip care of choice is Badger Unscented Healing Balm because it's, well, unscented (strong scents give me vertigo, especially if I can smell it from literally right under my nose). And since I think curled lashes instantly lift any face up, I've renewed my pact with Shu Uemura Eyelash Curler (care of Shu's brand manager Tina Tinio, who took me out of my misery when I lost my favorite *kikay* kit), 'til-death-or-*kikay* kit thief-do-us-part.

Super-fast shower

I shower systematically. It's almost like I have a built-in program that tells me what to do as soon as I step into the bathroom. To save time (and water!), I shampoo first, then put on conditioner.

While waiting for the good stuff to do its magic on my hair, I brush my teeth. Then I rinse, put my hair up in a crab clip (it's in its looong Marina stage right now), and use a foaming shower scrub to clean and exfoliate. How's that for efficiency?

One thing I learned is to "rotate" shampoos and conditioners to prevent build-up that can dull my strands. While I use pretty much any kind of shampoo, I am very particular about conditioners because my hair needs extra care now that I'm getting a kick out of feeling my hair touch my waist.

I like Pantene Total Care Conditioner because it doesn't weigh my hair down, smells great, and is a breeze to rinse off.

I like feeling smooth and silky all over, but I hate having to use a scrub and a body wash, especially on days when I want to own every minute. These days, I kill two birds with one stone with Freeman Shower Scrub. Just use it with a loofah and feel like you just came from the spa.

Finishing touches

Once I'm fresh and clean, I give my skin an extra boost with a light moisturizer (I'm not a lotion person) like Nivea Light Moisturizing Spray. It's the handiest "lotion" around because of its spray bottle. Look, Ma, no spills!

And because I abhor having to blow-dry my hair, I have a little trick that keeps even my extra-long mane manageable. After I towel-dry, I comb through my damp locks with a wide-toothed comb, then apply a peso-sized (use a smaller amount for shorter hair) dollop of Citre Shine Anti-Frizz Serum through my locks. I comb again, then divide my hair into two sections down the front of my shoulders (pretend you're a mermaid whose only option for underwear is her hair).

Don't tuck your hair in your ears until dry, and you'll have hair that will cooperate with you through the day.

E-mail the author at lora_gahol@yahoo.com

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

PRETTY PLEATS. Dress, P1,095. Tango

SAY PLEATS. Skirt, P1,095. Tango

GREEN GRIN. Skirt, P695. Bayo

PRETTY IN PINK. Skirt, P845. Tango

FLOWER POWER. Embroidered skirt, P1,095. X by Vic Barba

BLACK BEAUTY. Top, 2,599. Mango

HILLBILLY HOT. Top, P1,199. Mango

SASSY but simple, P895. Bayo

Now, you can get a SINGER Portable Zigzag (MEG 5430) SEWING MACHINE sooo easily!

DOWNPAYMENT	P1,690.00
+MONTHLY (10 mos.)	P 1,090.00

What are you waiting for?
Offer good from 25 October to 31 December 2004 only. So, grab one now!

* PLUS 10 MONTHLY INSTALLMENTS
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5290, Series of 2004

Other products available:

SINGER®
AT HOME WORLDWIDE

SHOWROOMS and AREA SALES OFFICES

MANILA
373 Bonifacio Drive
Port Area, Manila
Tel 527-8211 to 19
Customer Hotline:
1-800-100-SINGER
(Outside Manila)
527-9958 (Within Manila)
E-mail: singerph@x-next.net

SANTIAGO
Inductivo Compound
Dubinan West, Santiago City
Tel (078) 682-8703
Telefax (078) 682-3948

BUTUAN
Km 3 Employees Village,
Libertad, Butuan City
Tel (085) 225-3254
Telefax (085) 342-0254

CALAMBA
Sobeco Ave.
Hector Penthouse Bldg
#5&6 Brgy Hulang,
Calamba City
Tel (049) 834-6387
Telefax (049) 834-6384

APALIT PAMPANGA
Ann Rose Bldg McArthur Highway,
San Vicente Apalit, Pampanga
Tel (045) 879-0303 / 652-0385
Telefax (045) 652-0384

DAVAO
Oppus Bldg , Magallanes St.
Davao City
Tel. (082) 265-1208 / 255-1209
Telefax. (082) 265-1207

CAGAYAN DE ORO
Tan Lon Building
Abellanosa-M Vega Street,
Cagayan de Oro City
Tel. (088) 231-4456
(08822) 720 333 / 720-446
Telefax: (088) 231-4456

CATARMAN
Salnas Bldg , Jacinto St.
Catarman, Northern Samar
Tel. (055) 354-1184

SAN FERNANDO LA UNION
Barrio Langsat San Fernando
La Union
Tel. (072) 888-2469

ZAMBOANGA
Limbros Bldg , corner Tumaga Rd.,
Gov Ramos Extension,
Zamboanga City
Tel. (062) 992-2580 / 992-5023
(062) 991-2710

LAOAG
17 Zulueta St , Laoag City
Tel (077) 771-7550

NAGA
Kalsarina Bldg ,
Panganiban Drive, Naga City
Tel. (054) 811-2550 / 472-4076

ILOILO
Guisano Warehouse
Lapuz St , Iloilo City
Telefax: (033) 335-0380
(033) 337-5008

GENERAL SANTOS
Animan Lim Compound
San Pedro Ext , Lagao,
Gen Santos City
Tel. (083) 552-5048
Telefax: (083) 552-5081

TUGUEGARAO
11 Cortana Sur
Tuguegarao City
Tel. (078) 844-2420

OZAMIS
Lasi-an Street Ozamis City
Telefax: (088) 521-0254
(088) 521-2485

COTABATO
Kutang Bato Masonic Bldg.,
Sinsuat Ave., Cotabato City
Telefax. (064) 421-2613

CALAPAN
Elbo St Calapan City
Oriental Mindoro
Tel. (043) 441-0616 / 286-5881

ORMOC
Real cor Nicolits St ,
Ormoc City
Tel. (053) 255-3267

PALAWAN
Garciliano Bldg , Rizal Avenue
Puerto Princesa Palawan
Tel (048) 433-2824

CEBU
Cebu South Road, Medarazo Bldg ,
Mambaling Cebu City
Tel (032) 262-8262
(032) 281-7008

DUMAGUETE
Stanford Pension
San Jose St , Dumaguete City
Telefax (035) 225-4593

LEGASPI
Door #3 and 4 Old City Bus Terminal
Circumferencial Road, Kapantawan,
Legaspi City
Tel (052) 820-1498 / 820-0244
480 8610
Telefax: (052) 214-3348

TACLOBAN
Bonifacio Street, Port Area,
Tacloban City
Tel. (053) 321-3915 / 325-2000

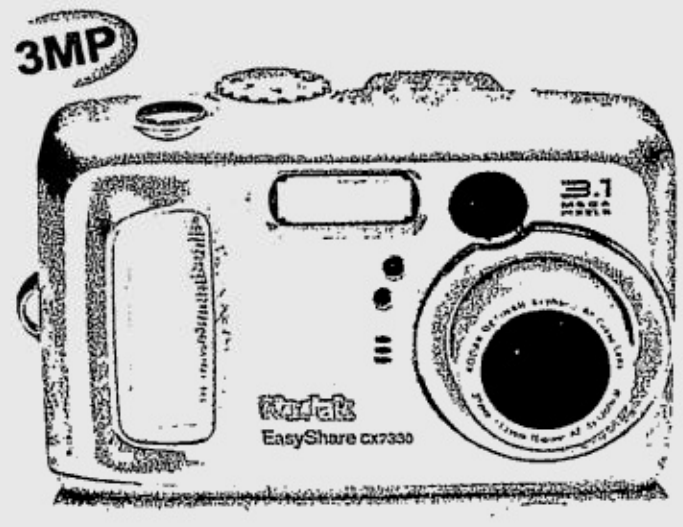
BACOLOD
Fil-Chinese Amity Club Bldg.,
Hilado Ext , Bacolod City
Tel. (034) 434-6331 / 432-1932
Telefax. (034) 434-6332

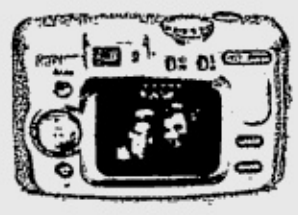
DIPOLOG
Gen Luna Street
Dipolog City
Tel. (065) 212-3698

Kodak EasyShare digital camera

Now it's easy to own one.

3MP

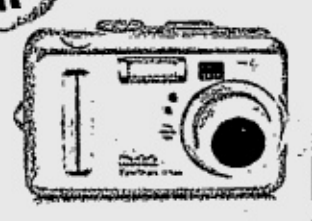




CX 7330
- 3X Optical Zoom 3.3 Digital Zoom
- Continuous Digital Video with Audio

before P 11,995.00
NOW P 9,995.00

4MP



CX 7430
- 3X Optical Zoom, 4X Digital Zoom
- Continuous Digital Video with Audio Recording and Playback
- 9 Scene and Colour Modes

before P 15,495.00 NOW P 13,495.00

5MP

PictBridge

CX 7530
- 3X Optical Zoom, 5X Digital Zoom
- Continuous Digital Video with Audio Recording and Playback
- 9 Scene and Colour Modes

before P 19,995.00 NOW P 16,495.00

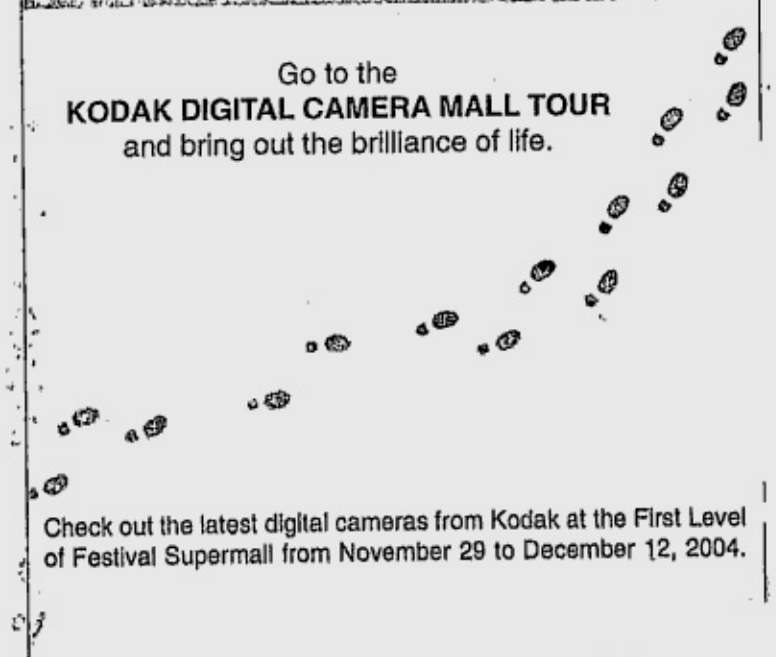
DX 7590
- 10X Optical Zoom, 3X Digital Zoom
- Professional Quality Schneider-Kreuznach Variogon Lens
- Creative Controls including Program, Aperture and Shutter Priority, Manual Control

5MP

P 29,995.00
with free 128 MB Memory Card

Kodak Hotlines:
636-9600 for Metro Manila,
1-800-1888-9600 Toll Free for Provincial Areas

Go to the
KODAK DIGITAL CAMERA MALL TOUR
and bring out the brilliance of life.



Check out the latest digital cameras from Kodak at the First Level of Festival Supermall from November 29 to December 12, 2004.

Participating Dealers: 5th Avenue • Complink • Island Photo • Kameraworld • PC Corner • Villman

GLOBE TELECOM

Business Center Exclusives

18 Gives Of Christmas.

Globe Gift Sets at 0% interest!*

Get a limited edition Christmas Gift Can for FREE with every new G Plan at 0% interest!

Just visit any Globe Center and check out these Nokia handsets available at Globe Handyphone Prepaid Phonekit and G Plan packages.

Accepted credit cards: Banco de Oro, Bankard, BPI, Citibank, Diners Club, Equitable, HSBC, Metrobank, Standard Chartered and Unionbank.

Call 751-8888 (8am - 10pm) for FREE delivery.

* Provided monthly installments are paid in full
** Based on 18 gives, 0% interest
*** Based on 6 gives, 0% interest
**** Based on 12 gives, 0% interest

NOKIA
CONNECTING PEOPLE

ALL-ORIGINAL GUARANTEED

making great things possible Globe HANDYPHONE

Promo period: November 22 to December 22, 2004 See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5764. Series of 2004.

2bU! be you • to • young • to be you • To be you! LIFESTYLE

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback:
Inquirer life name/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Maligayang Pasko!!
mula sa
NIKON®
HOME APPLIANCES

A date with Joshua Payne

Get to know the man behind the hottest baritone voice to hit Manila

PHOTO: RICHARD PEREZ

By Angela V. Ignacio
2bU! Correspondent

HIS face screams poster-boy material. His broad shoulders and tall, muscular frame make you think of a typical football player. But when he sings, you can't help but be blown away.

Such was the effect hot new singer/songwriter Joshua Payne had on local audiences during his recent visit to Manila. Armed with a deliciously cool baritone voice and chiseled good looks, he's got enough artillery to make hopeless romantics fall in love with him despite the raging weather. He gave Filipinos a taste of his heartrending music, with the MTV AIDS Summit and a show at the Podium among the venues.

2bU! was fortunate enough to catch the crooner twice, first during his presscon at Hard Rock Café, and the second in a follow-up interview.

Rarely does one encounter such a humble, down-to-earth guy. When teased about his landing a spot in People Magazine's Sexiest Men of 2004, he actually blushed. Now that's something we don't see everyday!

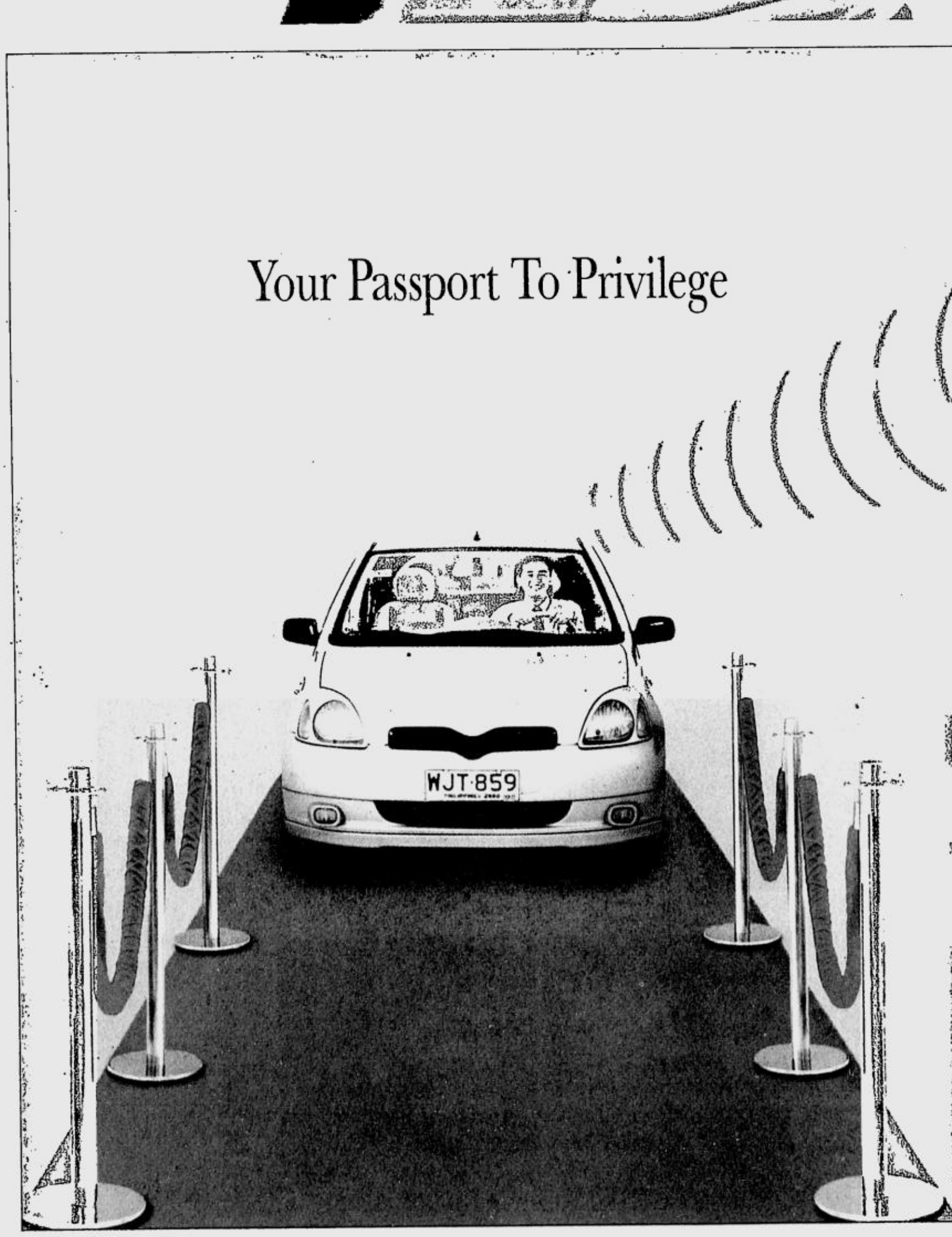
Universal message

Over lunch, Joshua animatedly talked about his music and his life. His debut album, "Your Love, My Home," is replete with poignant originals as well as remakes of

A DATE/F2

Introducing the EC Tag at the new NLE.

Your Passport To Privilege



Experience privileged travel with the EC Tag. The latest cashless, hassle-free, electronic payment system at the new NLE.

No coins. No queues. It's EC.

NEW NORTH LUZON EXPRESSWAY

The new rehabilitated NLE is brought to you by Manila North Tollways Corporation

Visit any of the NLE Customer Service Centers now or call (632) 580 8910/ (632) 687 6682/ (632) 637 6682 or email at customer_service@mntc.com

From page F1

mushy classics, like Bread's "If" and Chicago's "If You Leave Me Now."

It marks Joshua's first collaboration with Grammy-award winning producer-songwriter Michael Omartian, who's the mastermind behind the hit songs of legendary balladeers Christopher Cross, Peter Cetera, Amy Grant, Donna Summer and Rod Stewart.

Today's generation might be too young to appreciate this kind of sentimentality, but the message that his music contains is something everyone can relate to. This is evident in the title track's lyrics.

"There's a cry in my insides for what's eternal If somebody hears, 'I will never let you go, you will never know a night alone, I will make your love my home,' that's from here to eternity," explained Joshua. "It will ring true for a 17-year-old kid, and it will ring true for an 85-year-old man who's never known love any day of his life. It will ring true forever. So if I can make lasting events happen on paper, and let those translate to people in the form of music, then that's what I'm going to do."

This is also why he isn't too worried about venturing into the young, fickle world of pop. "If the music lands in the right place, hits a kid right between the eyes and he says, 'Oh man, I want that,' then I'm glad. I just write what's on the inside, and if that transcends generations, then good."

A date with Joshua Payne

HANGING out with Payne. Domi Espejo, Marion Martinez and Pao Soliven of Synergy, Joshua, Jane Kingsu of Pink Magazine, and the author RICHARD PEREZ

It's in the genes

It isn't hard to see where he got his incredible talent from, because it clearly runs in the family. His father, a church musician, and his mother, an opera singer, were key figures in shaping his musical talents, and he grew up listening to every kind of music.

What made his case a special one, however, was the fact that he was born almost completely deaf. But as a toddler, he had an operation that restored most of his hearing, and his parents played James Taylor and opera music to help the healing process along.

"I remember coming home and being able to hear music... [it's] an incredible feeling to wake up and be able to hear it. It certainly makes me appreciate music more than I would have," he said.

Playing sports also became a passion for him, such that music was relegated to the back burner for a while. He had a promising career in football, but a serious knee injury at 19 literally changed his life.

"I had another injury almost immediately, so it was like somebody was telling me something. So I said, okay, I'm listening," he said, chuckling a little. "I didn't give it up very graciously, but in those times, you go through the proverbial school of hard knocks, and you learn the things that make you a man—things that make life real and important, the values that football never gave me.

"Looking back, I think my parents did the best they could. They were great at raising me, and they were supportive of whatever I chose. I think now they know (or they knew all along) that I would eventually choose music, or it would choose me," he added.

But in spite of everything that has happened, Joshua is happy with the way his life has turned out.

"I think my path is kinda like that," he said, making a winding motion with his hands. "Music wasn't a thing that I'd really thought was anything other than what it was for my family; I didn't know that you could actually make a living out of it. And now it's the chosen path, and I'm grateful to have it."

On love and football

There's a certain earnestness and honesty in his music that's pretty hard to come by these days, and one can also see it in the way he talks about things he's passionate about. Take football, for instance.

"I wanted to play football really bad. It was something I gave my heart, mind and soul to," Joshua shared. "I was fast, I was strong, and I had incredible opportunities to play. But all the elements were against me."

It was painful for him to accept it at first, but soon enough, he realized that his true calling lay somewhere else.

"Football is, in my opinion, the most selfish sport on the face of the planet, because it's all about me... and I'm not called to be all about me. So by getting to go down that road and learn from mistakes, I got to a place where I was receptive to hearing what was in my soul, and now it's music," he said. "It was always there... it's this undeniable thing that sort of jelled with my love experience, and that's what I'm going to express. That's where I live."

Hearing him talk about love, meanwhile, was a different thing altogether. His poet's soul would reveal itself, and the ladies couldn't help but swoon.

"Love isn't a sensibility, like some people think. It's a force, it's life, it's what holds nature together, it's this typhoon that happened and could've been very devastating and we all tremble in its wake. But at the same time, it holds everything together," he said earnestly while eyeing the cheesecake platter set before him (he loves cheesecake, by the way).

"Love is so powerful, it's way more powerful than the earth. You can't look at love and stamp it as a tried sensibility; it doesn't work that way. You learn about love through what you've been through, and that's what I write about."

He couldn't have put it in a better way.

E-mail the author at aoshi_no_miko@atenista.net.

Manila welcomes The Barbs!

2bU! caught up with the hot British band while they were waiting to play their second gig at the MYXMO street party in Morayta

By Diego Rosano P. Mapa
2bU! Contributor

JIM Tucker (bass), Simon Hartop (drums), Amy Casey (rhythm guitars and vocals) and Tim Box (lead guitar and vocals)

THE BARBS were in town recently straight from London, and they were suddenly Manila's newest sensation. Their refreshing hard pop-punk sound rocked the fans and earned them massive new ones in their first Asian appearance at the Greenbelt Expo Exchange.

The gang planed in to play a series of shows with the help of Pony footwear. This educational treat also wouldn't have been possible without the hard work of a simple rock fan named Edgar "Par" Sallan (gig promoter and main connection of the band).

Talk to Par about music, and you'd find yourself taking down notes on rock history from the Beatles, Stones, The Clash, to bands you've never heard of and new music you'd want to get into immediately.

"In the history of punk and rock and roll," he said, "The Barbs has been the only great Brit band ever to play Manila since Eric Clapton, Depeche Mode and The Beatles."

The band released its debut album, "Lupine Peroxide," under Mother Tongue Records last September 2004. The album is an evil fast car with your girlfriend hitting the breeze. It is a mix of surf, rockabilly, spaceships and the B52s gone mad. Besides the carrier single, "Massive Crush," which already topped the charts, the 15-track CD has other smashing cuts such as "The Importance of Being Evil," "Nowaitaminit," "Dangerman" and the blow horn-driven "Bury You."

The band is made up of Tim Box (lead guitar and vocals), Amy Casey (rhythm guitars and vocals), Jim Tucker (bass) and Simon Hartop (drums).

The quartet was simply ecstatic about the warm response of Manila to their music.

"I was very impressed because we were told that the Filipino crowd might be reserved and not go bonkers. But I thought the show was great because there were people going up the stage and a doing a good amount of movement. Considering that two or three weeks ago we were unknown and nobody really knew the album, I was really surprised how the crowd got into it. It was as good as a home crowd!" said Tim.

I caught up with the Brits while they were waiting to play their second gig before a broader audience composed of thousands at the MYXMO street party in Morayta.

What's the story behind how you got to play here in the Philippines?

Tim (T): Edgar Sallan got in touch with us nearly a year ago and was talking about getting us over here. He really worked hard. He got Pony involved to help us get out, and we were more than happy to come over. It's just has been a great experience.

How long have you been together?

T: Two years now. Mid-2002, Amy joined us on Halloween night.

So it was just the three of you at first?

T: That's right, we were in a band previously and split up. We decided to work together again but we needed a new vocalist. We advertised and Amy just came from Australia to look for a band.

Have you been in other bands?

T: We've been in lots of bands since we were little.

Amy (A): This is my first band!

SIMON sneers at the cam.

AMY and Tim get close to their Pinoy fans.

What kind of band were you thinking before you formed the Barbs?

T: It would have to be the Pixies really, but it has become something so different from now. Amy came in and added something to it that we never thought we could have. And now it's just gotten somewhere. Well, for us it's just The Barbs. That's it, that's us.

What other band names did you come up with before The Barbs?

Simon (S): Actually, the band name came before the band.

T: A long time ago, we were in a band called The Barbs. We were very young and the band didn't work out. So when we decided to do this band, we thought we'd keep the name.

So is The Barbs short for "the barbiturates?" (laughter)

S: Customs in Hong Kong said that!

Jim (J): I think we might change all our names to Barbara!

S: Actually, it came from a Pixies song "Hangwire." Listen to the lyrics and you'll know.

How many countries have you been to?

T: Three now—UK, Holland and here.

A: And Australia!

What's your lifestyle back home?

T: It's very affluent. (Laughter)

Any day jobs?

T: We scrape by.

As full-time musicians?

T: Full-time losers, yeah (laughs). No, we just work on our music really hard.

Who triggers the samples when you play live?

J: I do, my left foot.

It's amazing how you stick with the timing. How do you do that?

J: It was really hard in the beginning. We would just bash on our guitars then, but we wanted to put in some sound effects. We ended up messing up with the sampler and it was getting harder and harder. Then, it was, "Okay, let's have some funny noises at the same time." It took a lot of practice for it to work.

T: Simon has very good timing as well.

What were your expectations before playing here?

A: We didn't know that the music scene was so massive over here. So when you're not thinking about and you're exposed to it for the first time, its f**ing overwhelming, man!

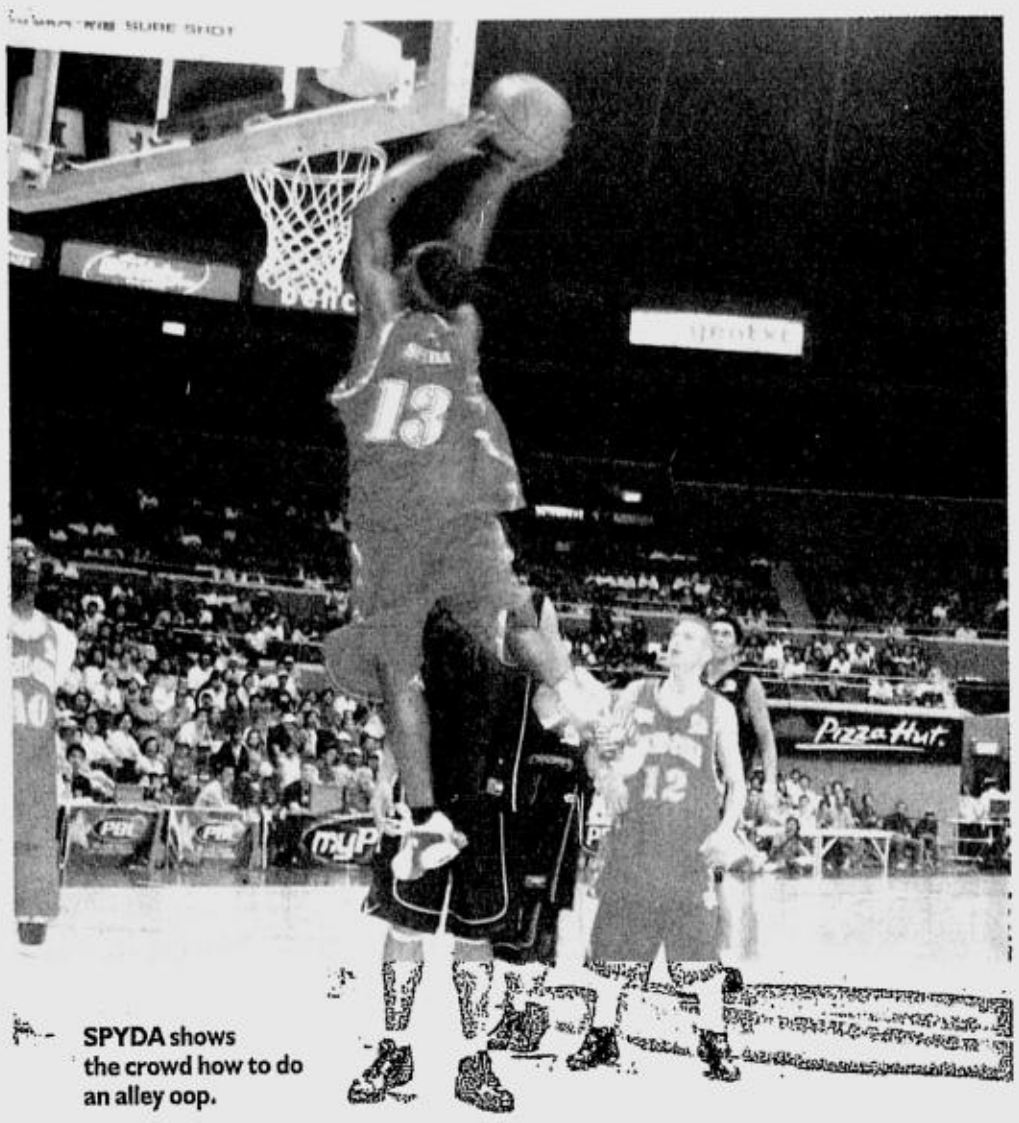
T: We never knew how big Manila was, the place, and how huge and intense the culture was and everything. It's a complete eye opener for us, and at the same time, a brilliant experience. Everyday seems to get better and better!

What are your plans when you get back?

A: I'm gonna open my presents.

T: Yeah, and I think this New Year, we will be recording tracks for our second album, then play some shows. And we are gonna tell all the bands that we know in England how good it is out here.

E-mail the author at buttuglyartexces@hotmail.com



SPYDA shows the crowd how to do an alley oop.

Ball-smart team for a basketball-crazy nation

Text and photos by Dexter R. Matilla
2bU! Correspondent

AND 1 is streetball.

And the AND 1 Mix Tape Tour Team is the best group of streetballers alive.

Got your attention?

Good. Because if you were at the Araneta Coliseum when Dennis "Spyda" Chism captured a crazy alley oop from halfcourt, or when Aaron "AO" Owens broke his defenders' ankles with his mean dribbling prowess, or when John "Helicopter" Humphrey did a 'between-the-legs tomahawk slam off the fastbreak, then you'd know it's the truth.

Brandishing the basketball flair that made them famous worldwide, the AND 1 Mix Tape Team cruised to an easy 85-64 victory over the Crewsaders, composed of players from the Philippine Basketball League and several hand-picked ones from the open run held outside the arena prior to the game.

The Crewsaders, however, had their share of the spotlight as young Pinoy basketball wiz Nino Ventura held his own against his heroes AO and Jamar "Pharmacist" Davis, earning him the moniker "little wizard" from AND 1's play-by-play emcee, Set Free.

Spreading the word

The day before the game, Relzbach Ventures, the local distributor of AND 1 products in the country, held a press conference at the Discovery Suites in Ortigas where the players were billeted.

The other players who came for the tour were Tony "Go Get It" Jones, Robert "50" Martin, Lonnie "Prime Objective" Harrell, Waliyy "Main Event" Dixon, John "High Octane" Harvey and Tyron "Alimoe" Evans.

AND 1 public relations director Mandy Murphy said they were surprised with the immense popularity of basketball in the Philippines. Likewise, they were even more surprised to see that the mix-tape style of play is growing here.

After the press conference, the AND 1 delegation made a trip to SM North Edsa to visit one of the AND 1 stores and sports shop Toby's for autograph signing and photo opportunities.

On the bus back to the hotel, the players were like a bunch of happy campers. Pharmacist, Spyda, and 50 took turns talking thrash to each other.

Memorable quips that stuck to my mind include those from 50, who at first, was trying to doze off. He told Pharmacist, who had been laughing non-stop: "You're laughin' 24 hours, man. All you do is laugh—at the airport, at the hotel. Give it a rest."

Spyda, who was seated at the back and is the newest member, likewise got a beating from 50. After seeing a huge billboard of AND 1 Mix Tape, 50 told him, "You'll never get that poster shot, man."

AO tried to acquaint himself with the locals by opening his window and asked motorists to watch the game the next day. I then told AO to say "*Kumusta*" to the people and if they asked him back, his reply would be "*Mabuti*." It came out something like "*ma-boo-tey*."

Leaving a mark

Just like its National Basketball Association counterparts, the AND 1 Mix Tape Tour Team has a worldwide following that cannot be denied.

"Nowadays, if you would ask basketball-playing kids what they want to be when they grow up, they would no longer just answer 'Be in the NBA'," Murphy said.

"Now, they would tell you that they want to be a member of the AND 1 Mix Tape Team."

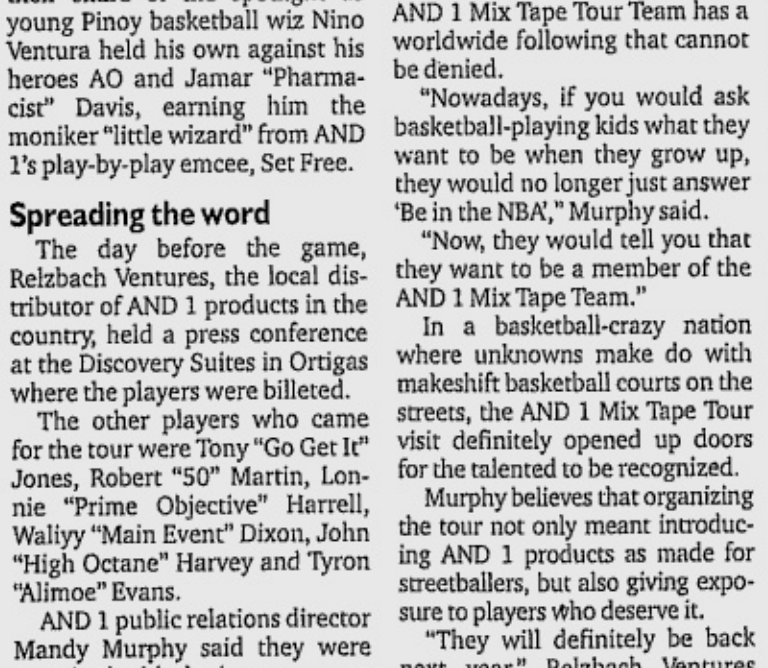
In a basketball-crazy nation where unknowns make do with makeshift basketball courts on the streets, the AND 1 Mix Tape Tour visit definitely opened up doors for the talented to be recognized.

Murphy believes that organizing the tour not only meant introducing AND 1 products as made for streetballers, but also giving exposure to players who deserve it.

"They will definitely be back next year," Relzbach Ventures president Bob Bachmann said.

Some have branded the AND 1 Mix Tape Team as modern-day Harlem Globetrotters with style. But A1 members beg to differ.

So keep it in mind. They ain't hip-hop globetrottin' harlems. Call them that, and you'd better be ready to look silly, end up with a ball thump on your head and get dashed.



FANS line up for the AND 1 signing at Toby's.

The AND 1 Mix Tape Tour Team makes a crowd-pleasing visit to Manila

GUYITO WILD HUNT

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
_____
CONTACT NO. _____
SIGNATURE _____

Where did you buy this copy? Please check
☐ News stand/Newsboy ☐ Subscription

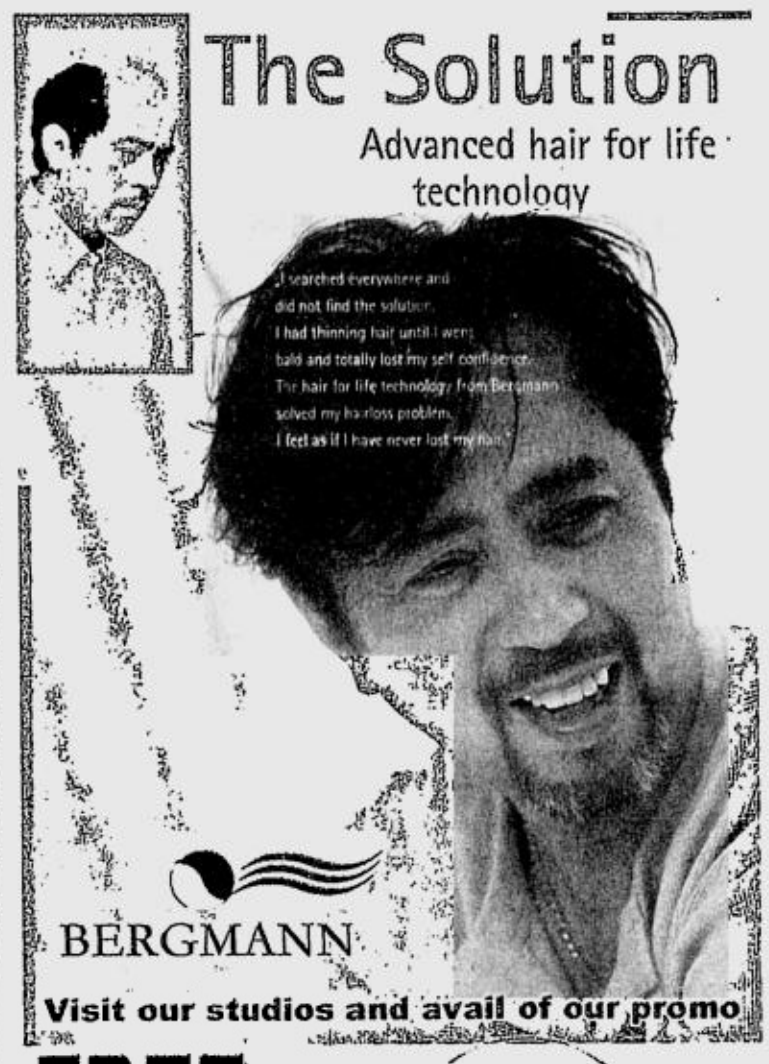
Promo Period: Sept. 27- Dec. 14, 2004
Deadline of Entries:
Monthly Draws: October 17 and Nov. 17, 2004
Grand Draw: Dec. 14, 2004
Draw Dates:
Monthly Draw: October 22 and Nov. 22, 2004
Grand Draw: Dec. 21, 2004

See posters and print ads for details.
Per DTI Permit No. 2147, series of 2004

Drop in drop boxes located at Ayala and Robinson's cinema lobbies, and all LBC and Netopia branches. You may also mail entries to: Guyito Wild Hunt, PDI Bldg., corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Chino Roces Ave., Makati City.

to be young • to be you • to be young • To be you! •

The Solution
Advanced hair for life technology



BERGMANN

Visit our studios and avail of our promo

FREE hair for life TRIAL

PROMO PERIOD : DECEMBER 1 - 31, 2004
For any inquiry, please call 8440580 / 8445055
or email : bergmannhair@tri-isys.com

Canon

clic!
PowerShot A400
A great shot every time

great close-ups and DIGIC technology for real-life colour and accuracy, it allows you to take high quality photos just the way you like them – fun, funky and over the edge. And you don't even have to break a sweat. The new Canon PowerShot A400. Choose from four radical colours and start shooting to the max today!

Silver · Sky Blue · Spring Green · Sunset Gold

★ 3.2 megapixel CCD ★ 2.2x optical zoom
★ 3.2x digital zoom ★ 9-point AiAF
★ SD card slot ★ Optional all-weather case
★ Print/Share button ★ Powered by DIGIC

POWERED BY DiGiC

Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc.
2F Marvin Plaza Bldg., 2153 Don Chino Roces Avenue cor. V.A. Rufino St., Makati City • Tels.: 812-6047 / 812-6076 to 79 / 892-6449 • Fax: 810-9797 • E-mail address: info@canon.com.ph • www.canon.com.ph
South & South East Asia Regional Headquarters: Canon Singapore Pte Ltd 1 HarbourFront Avenue, #04-01, Keppel Bay Tower, Singapore 098632 • www.canon-asia.com

After all, it's not giving him what he wants, it's about giving him what he needs.

SMART KID

The FIRST Celfone for Kids

Prepaid

MOTOROLA C200
only ~~P2,890~~

NOKIA 3315
only ~~P3,250~~

NOKIA 1100
only ~~P3,950~~

NOKIA 2300
only ~~P5,090~~

MOTOROLA C375 (MMS)
only ~~P5,490~~

KID LOCATOR
Find his location saan man siya mapunta. Type <WIS> <your kid's celfone number> then send to 386.

FUN AND GAMES
Learning can be more fun with PLANET KID's click-and-browse educational content.

FAMILY FINDER
Use this for emergency para may kapamilyang siguradong sasagot sa tawag niya. Just tell your kid to dial 222.

NEW

NOKIA 3120 (MMS)
only ~~P6,690~~

NOKIA 3200 (MMS w/ camera)
only ~~P8,590~~

SMART KID PREPAID RATES

SMART to SMART (per minute)	P6.50
SMART to non-SMART (per minute)	P7.50
Text fee (per message)	P1.00

Get a SMART Kid Prepaid SIM (w/CD case) for only P150! Plus cool SMART Kid freebies.

Available at the SMART CELLebration booth at a mall nearest you!

I ♥ SMART
Simply Amazing!

Per DTI-NCR Permit No.5560. Series of 2004.

For more details, please call the SMART Sales Hotline at 848 8882. Questions? Comments? Concerns? Call the SMART Hotline at 888 1111, or *888 (toll free), e-mail us at smartkid@smart.com.ph, or visit the SMART Wireless Center nearest you.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

LIFESTYLE 2bU

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback:
inquirer life name/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

PALM Beach Singapore's. Milk Prawns and Singaporean Chili Crabs

Food binge times five

It was a night of gluttony as we tried out five choice restaurants in the Fort

By Cheryl Tiu
2bU! Correspondent

"THERE'S an event at the Fort tonight. You'll be taking your first course in one restaurant, then your second course in another, and so on," 2bU!'s chief told me by cell phone. "Do you want to do it?"

Do I want to do it? The idea of restaurant-hopping at the Fort dangled before my eyes like a pendulum trying to hypnotize me. No way was I going to pass up the opportunity.

I walked into Good Earth, the first designated restaurant, at around 8 p.m.—a bit late, having come from another event. My companions for the food binge told me they had already started on their first dish of Tunaquitos but I could still catch up.

Good Earth's Precy Florentino sat with us and explained the dishes we were to try.

The starters: Duckquitos—duck morsels and greens stuffed into wanton shells and drizzled with a fruit-and-hoisin based sauce, Shrimp with Walnuts, Chicken Pao and my personal favorite, Lily on the Pond—minced shrimp and water chestnut sandwiched between rounds of eggplant and laced with coconut-and-curry sauce.

As much as I enjoyed the aristocratic twist Good Earth has superbly infused into traditional Chinese dishes., we had to conserve our appetites as this was only our first of five restaurants.

Ornate interiors

Our second stop was Prince of Jaipur. I've been here a few times with my friends and every time, I never fail to be mesmerized by its ornate interiors and hand-painted tapestries strewn artistically all over the place. I adored Indian food so I was pretty excited for our meal.

We were served Silkwood Red Wine to complement our kebabs, with wine glasses that were extremely large, almost like mini-fishbowls. The waiter told us they were wine glasses for Indian princes and princesses. Wow, they really do make you feel like royalty in Jaipur!

The meal started off with fried *papadum*, a crispy appetizer akin to paper-thin *chicharon* which we mixed with Jaipur's assorted table dips. Then came various platters of Samosas, Tandoori Roti and the house specialty, Assorted Kebabs of lamb, fish, chicken, prawn and cottage cheese, served suspended on metal skewers. Owner Mr. T. Max told us that their *tandoori* oven was made out of clay, thus everything was thoroughly cooked inside as well as outside.

We also had brown rice on the side—probably the most flavorful I have ever tried. The kebabs were addicting, and I kept accepting everything being served until I realized that within a span of 10 minutes, my stomach had noticeably expanded.

Next, we were off to Le Soufflé. Since I was fascinated by everything French—I took French as my foreign language two years ago, attended a French business school in Hungary for a semester and completely fell in love with Paris—I was looking forward to rekindling my taste for French Mediterranean cuisine.

Were we in for a treat. A Castillo de Molina Cabernet Sauvignon 2002 from Chile was on hand to accompany our main course of Grilled Lamb Tenderloin in Rosemary and Garlic Sauce, with assorted greens in creamy French Dressing and Potato au Gratin on the side. We commended chef Patron Andreas Katzer for his masterpiece that rang of the restaurant's five-star caliber.

Milder fare

At Palm Beach Singapore, we were joined by managing director Vincent Cheng. We were told that while Singaporeans like spicy

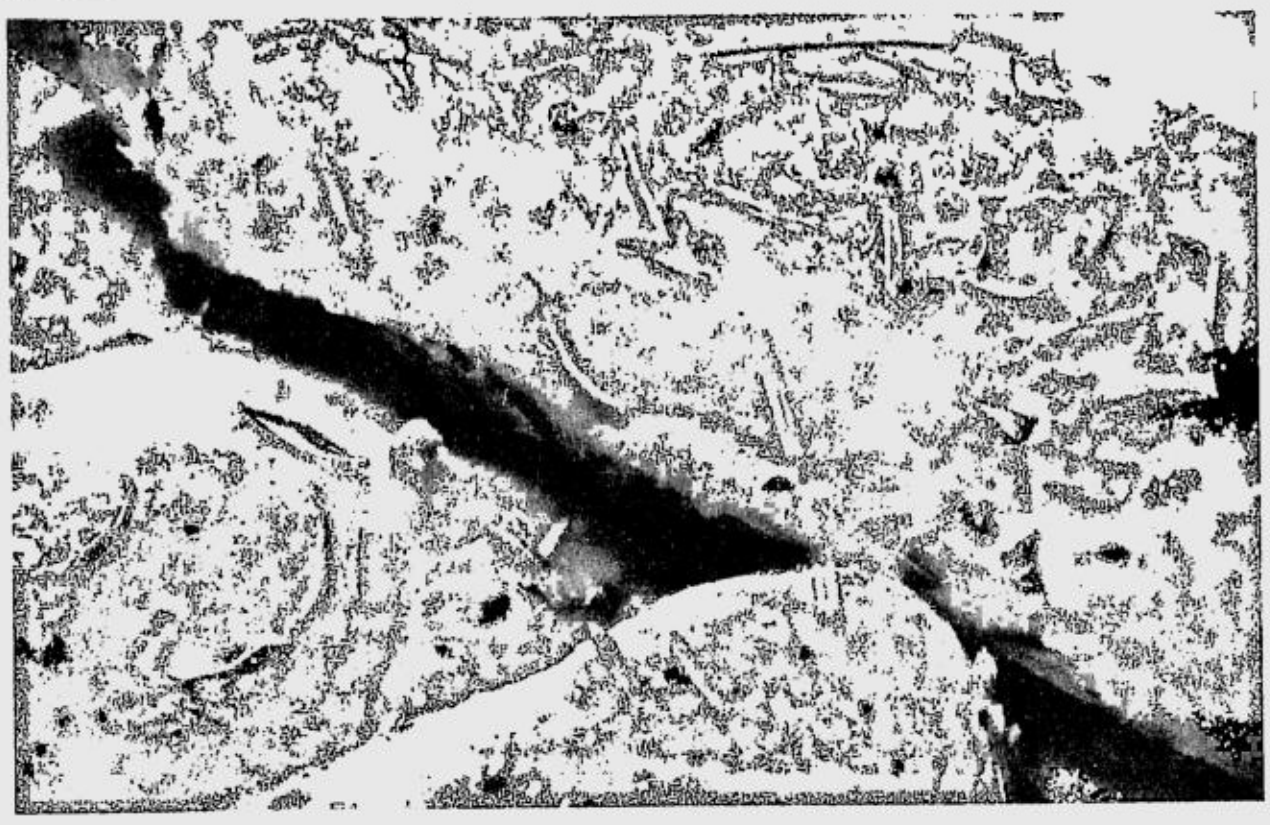
FOOD/ G2

"TAKE NO EXAM UNTIL YOU'VE SEEN A POWERMEMORY DEMONSTRATION"
FREE MEMORY CONSULTATION
"PowerMemory really works!"
Mrs. Tiu, Proud Mother of Hazel
FOR STUDENTS & PROFESSIONALS
power memory
Oxygen for Learning

Support
RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES
RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES

The Season Shines
at the PODIUM
The Lounge, 2nd level
December 8 Philip Stein Teslar Press Launch, 6pm
December 9 Live performance of balladeer Enrique Marcos 7pm
December 10 The Embassy of Austria presents Christmas Cheers with the Kaibigan Vocal Ensemble and the Pundaquit Virtuosi String Ensemble, 2pm
"Silent Night" with storyteller Barbara Naude, 4pm
RX Concert Series featuring Paolo Santos, 8pm
December 10 Spectacular Fireworks The Podium Front 7pm
December 11 "Reigne" Book launch of Regine Velasquez 1:30pm
Spanish Christmas Stories with Vivian Mangalindan, 5pm
The Embassy of Spain and Instituto Cervantes present Christmas Cheers with the TIP Chorale, 6pm
December 12 The Embassy of Sweden presents Christmas Cheers with the Lucia Choir, 3pm
Swedish Christmas Stories with Linda Skogsberg, 4pm
Live performance by Ogie Alcasid, 7pm
December 14 The British Embassy and the British Council present Christmas Cheers with Coro Angelitos, 4pm
Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" with storyteller Melody Remorca 6pm
December 15 Czech Cartoons for Children presented by the Embassy of the Czech Republic 4pm & 6pm
December 16 The Embassy of Belgium presents Christmas Cheers with the Las Piñas Boys Choir 7pm
December 17 "Encore NOVELLINO!" A Bouquet of Symphonies with the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra, 7pm
Spectacular Fireworks The Podium Front 7pm
December 18 The Nutcracker ballet Performance by The Center for Movement and Music 4pm
World-renowned pianist Maksim Paniouri Live 8pm
December 19 "The Elves & The Shoemaker" performance by Stage FX, 4pm
December 20 Sounds of Christmas featuring the Ateneo Glee Club 7pm
December 21 A Night of Symphony and Music by De La Salle University Chamber Ensemble, 7pm
December 22-23 Celebrate Christmas with Shrek, 10am onwards
December 24-Jan 1, 2005 Astrid Lindgren Exhibit presented by the Embassy of Sweden
THE PODIUM
18 adb avenue, ortigas center
Jam 88.3
WAVE 89.1

Fat-Loss Questions?
For Effective Fat Removal, Ask Our Marie France Doctor.
Find out what you need to know about fat loss with the help of our Marie France physician Dr. Ariel Torres.
Q. How can I enjoy the delicious dishes during the Christmas season and still stay in shape?
A. Take note of these simple nutrition and consumption facts. First, eat fiber together with any meal or snack. It helps to dilute the food that you take in so you only absorb half or even less of it. Fruits and vegetables are very good sources of fiber. Second, savor the food by eating slowly. Not the actual chewing but rather take your time when eating. This avoids the sugar surge and the eventual sugar drop when insulin is suddenly released that will make you crave for more food. Third, avoid binge eating to compensate for long lapses between meals. Don't eat everything all at once but rather eat a few of each dish at a time. And lastly, try to avoid energy food with sugar or carbohydrates during the latter part of the day if you don't have any strenuous activity left to do. That's how we do it at Marie France. Our proficient medical doctors and consultants recommend the appropriate fat-loss treatments and give nutritional advice that would suit the client's needs. With Marie France's help, you can stay fit, healthy and slim, even during the holidays.
What women say about Marie France:
"At Marie France, I learned the right way of eating moderately. Their relaxing and effective treatments helped me to lose weight effortlessly. Now, I look physically fit and my health is in excellent condition, thanks to Marie France."
- Carol Uy, stockbroker
For more details on Marie France's slimming programme, call our hotline at 894-BODY (2639) and set an appointment for a FREE CONSULTATION.



HERBED Chicken

Potluck

Text and photos by Zee Castro and Anne Rose Elicaño
2bU! Correspondents

IF you automatically think of six-pack beers and *pulutan* as your contribution to a potluck dinner, then this is the right read for you.

Coming up with your share of the Christmas party feast need not be complicated. A handful of ingredients and some easy, foolproof steps will help you get on the right track. Come that awaited night, your friends will definitely be in for a welcome, delicious surprise.

Spicy Tuna Spaghetti

Pasta
1 can of tuna (hot and spicy)
2 c tomatoes, diced (or a can of stewed tomatoes)
1 tbsp garlic, crushed
½ c sliced mushrooms
2 tbsp sliced olives
Italian seasoning
salt and pepper
olive oil

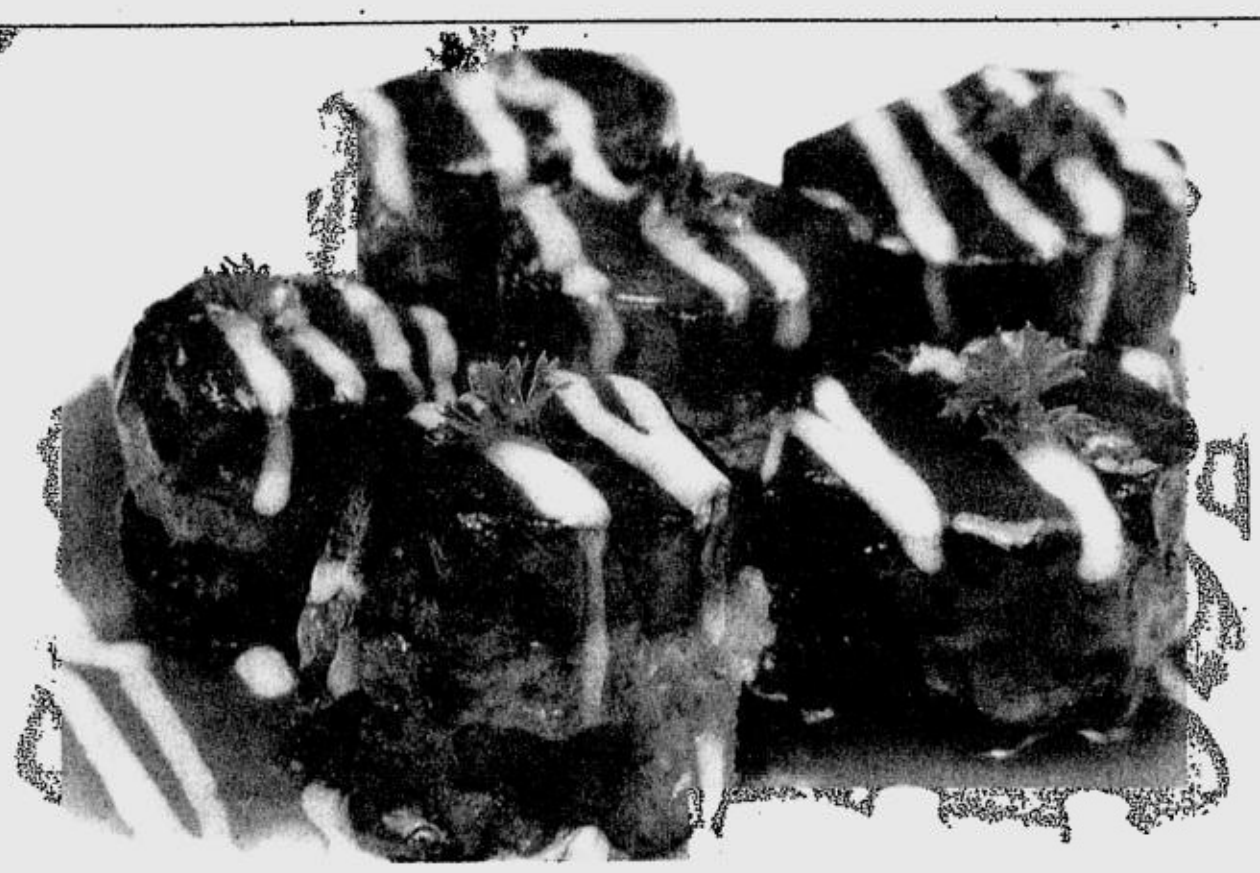
Cook pasta in a large pot of salted boiling wa ter for eight to 10 minutes or until al dent Drain. Fry the garlic and mushrooms in oliv oil. Add the can of tuna and tomatoes, and l simmer for a few minutes. Add salt, pepper an Italian seasoning to taste. Serve hot.

You can use other types of pasta and well, an substitute tuna chunks in brine or oil for the h and spicy variety. You can also add pine nuts fo added texture.

Creamy Mushroom Chicken

500 g chicken breast
2 c sour cream

GOURDO'S Crème Brûlée



GOOD EARTH'S Lily on the Pond

PRINCE of Jaipur's ket in yoghurt and spices

Food binge times five

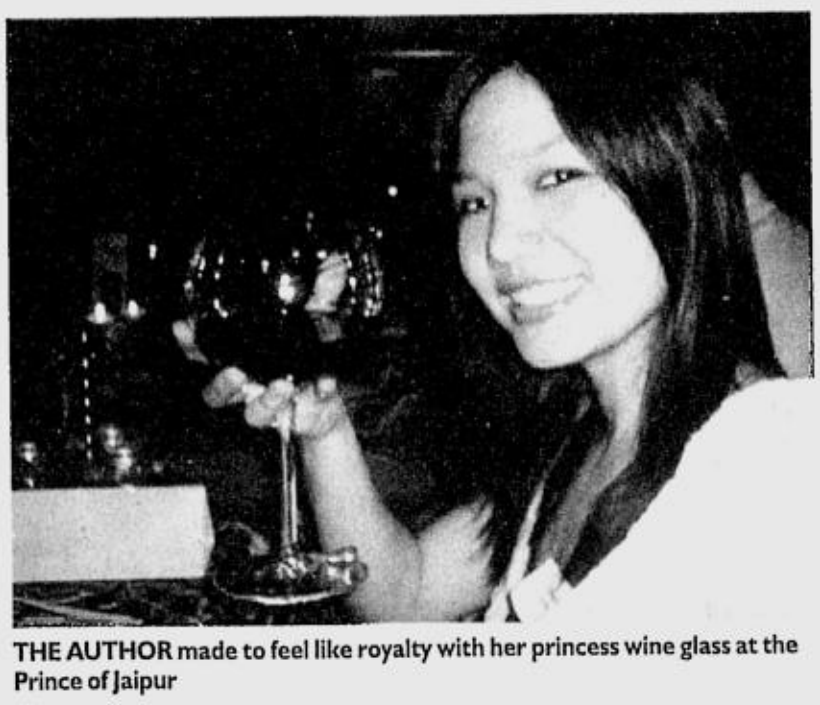
From page G1

food, Filipinos have buds, so the restaurant down their spiciness.

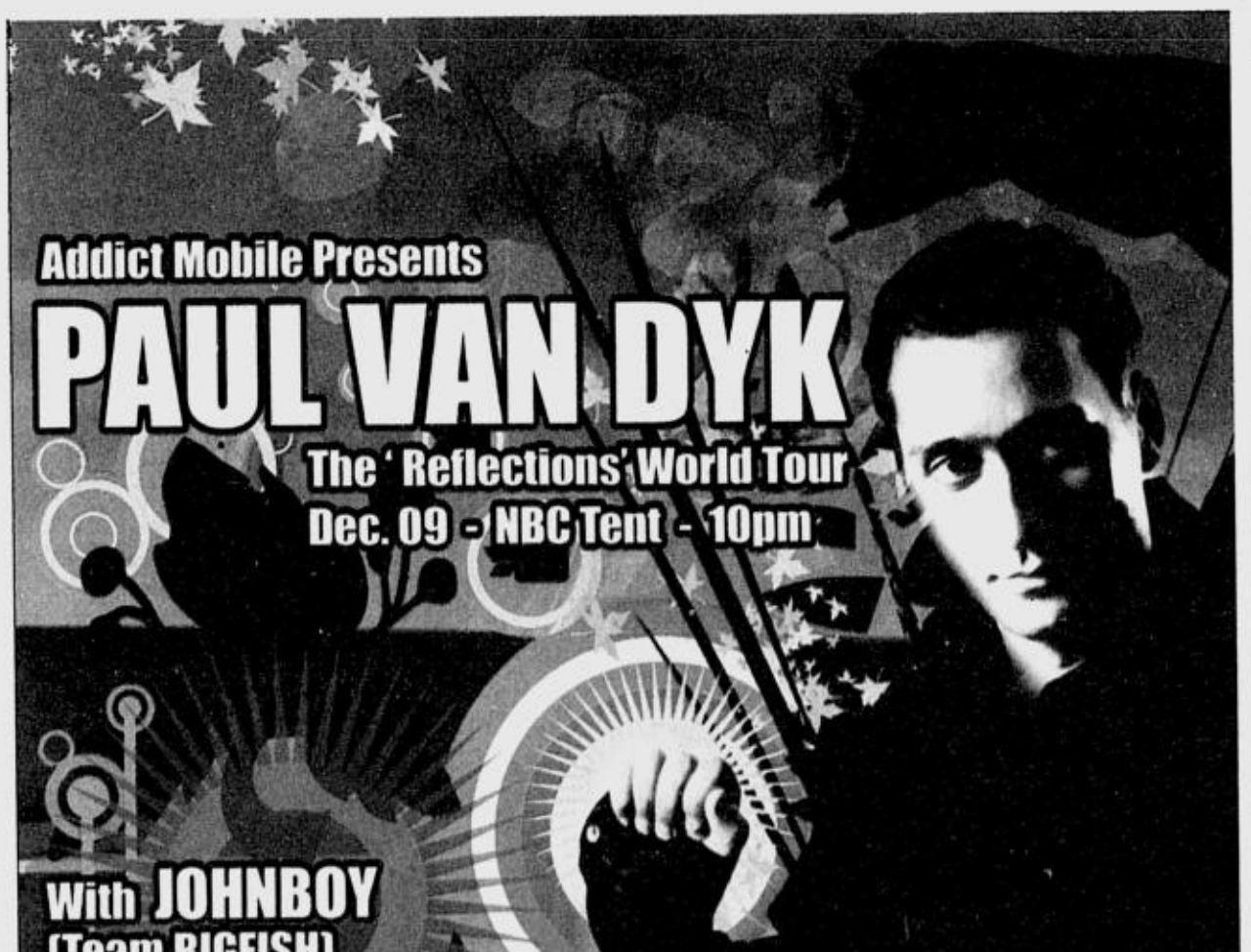
The Milk Prawns co with the fried crispy s edible as well, had tangy taste. The Crisp was a mélange of cris sweet and spicy—be vorite dish in the resta tried Crispy Cruellet shrimp paste that son me of breaded squ grand finale was Sin Crabs, with incredibly meat. These came baked fine white buns

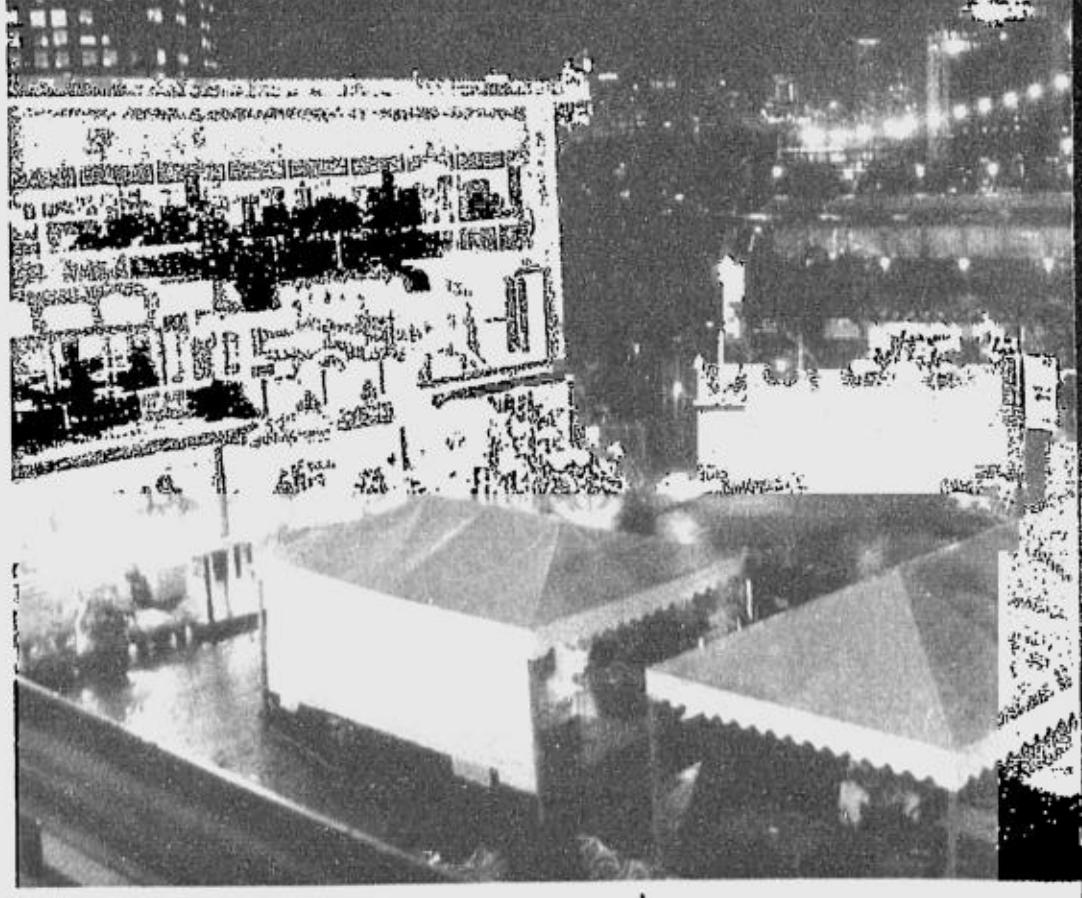
Though I had an av nese food being that it tically breathes it I Beach Singapore was that.

By the time we got was beyond full. But w we were going to hav eyes started twinkling rector Charlene Her and store brand m



THE AUTHOR made to feel like royalty with her princess wine glass at the Prince of Jaipur





BEST COPY AVAILABLE

sessions

2 c all-purpose cream
2 cubes, chicken bullion
2 tbsp powdered rosemary
olive oil
½ c mushrooms
1 tbsp garlic, crushed
salt and pepper

Combine salt, pepper and rosemary, and rub unto the chicken. Let it sit for few hours. Brown garlic in olive oil. Cook the chicken breast. Make sure not to overcrowd the pan.

Take out the cooked chicken and cut into bite-sized pieces.

For the sauce:

Add mushroom, sour cream, all-purpose cream, chicken bullion cubes and rosemary one after the other. Boil until a thick consistency is reached.

Add the chicken to the sauce. Stir to avoid scorching. Serve hot with garlic bread. Or literally pour onto penne or spaghetti to turn it unto a pasta dish.

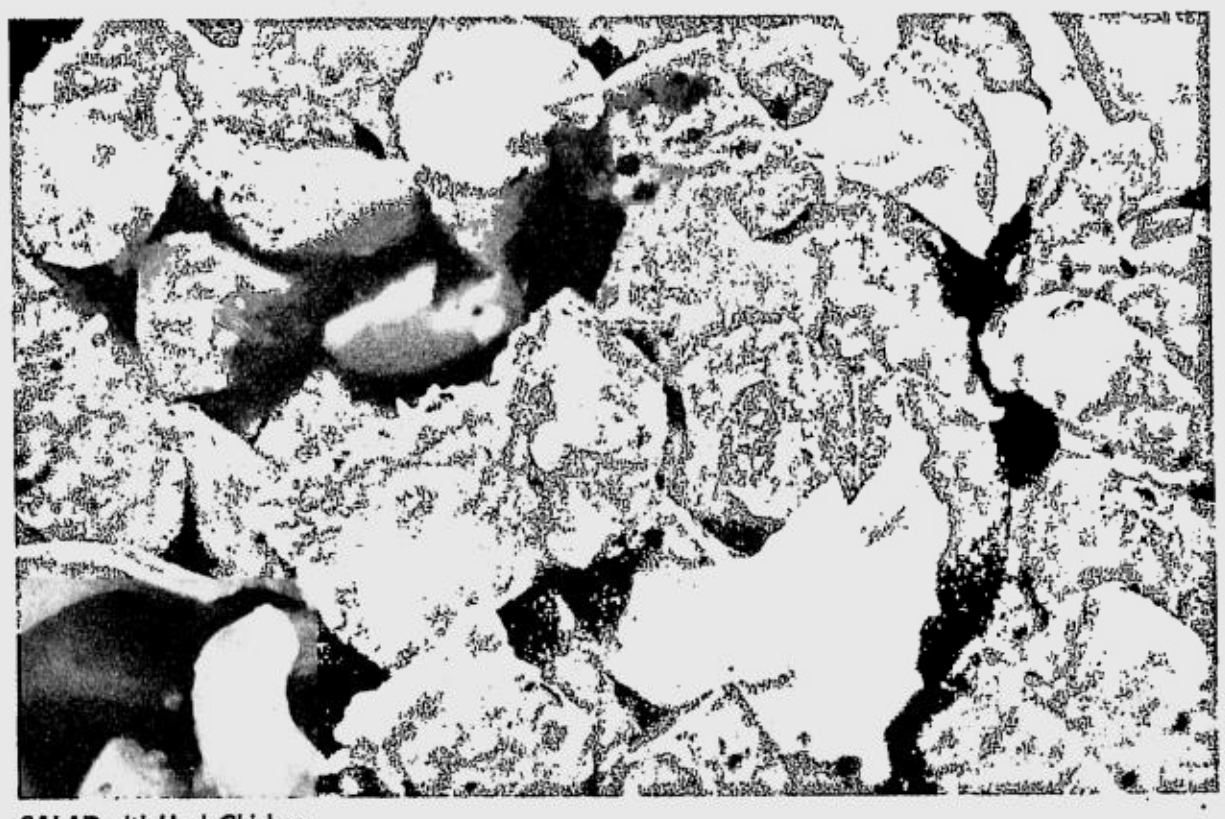
Herbed Chicken

500 g chicken breast
1 tsp salt
1 tbsp cayenne pepper
1 tbsp soy sauce
olive oil
1 tbsp garlic powder (or crushed garlic)
A liberal amount of powdered oregano, thyme, rosemary, basil

Combine the salt, pepper, garlic powder, soy sauce and herbs unto the chicken, and let it sit for a few hours.

Add a small amount of olive oil unto a skillet, and cook the chicken until slightly brown.

POTLUCK/ G4



SALAD with Herb Chicken

abs of minced lamb and chicken tikka marinated

milder taste
offers to tone

oked in *yema*,
in apparently
delightfully
y Baby Squid
y and chewy,
came my fa-
urant. We also
—bread and
of reminded
d balls. The
aporean Chili
tender crab-
with freshly

rsion for Chi-
y family prac-
ke air, Palm
lowly altering

ro Gourdo's, I
hen I saw that
e dessert, my
Managing di-
g, marketing
ge manager

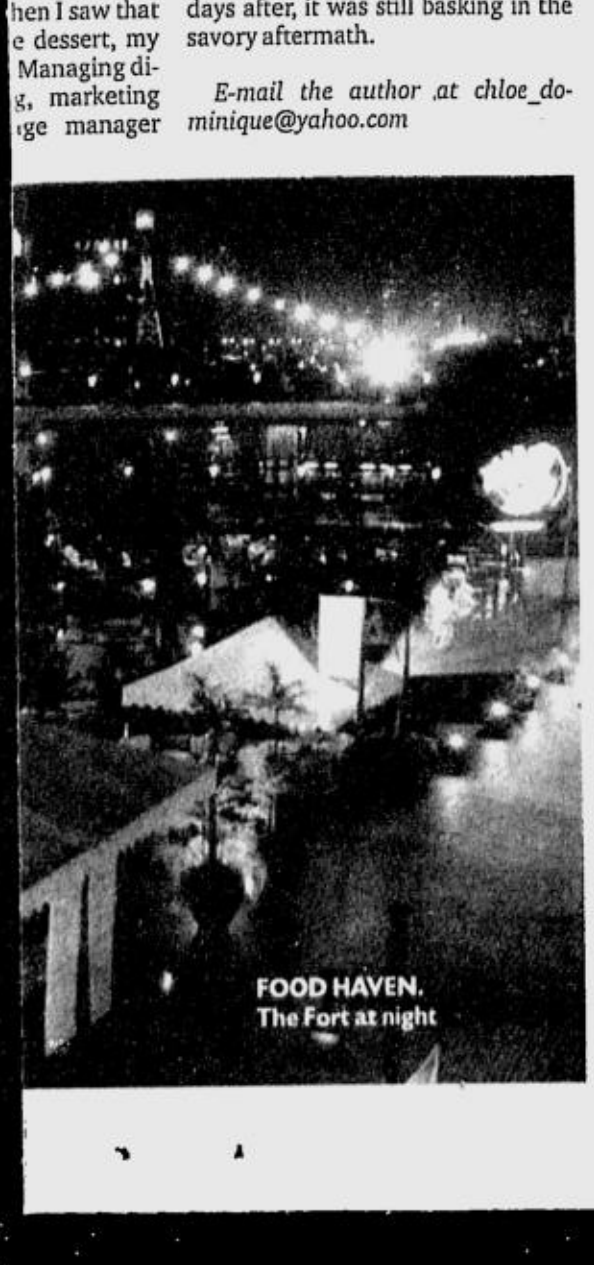
Karen Sanchez and chef Chris Bautista joined us for our final meal for the night.

Gourdo's Crème Brûlée was amazing—an impeccable concoction of sweetness that bordered crisp on top. The Tiramisu, meanwhile, was a creamy, mild blend of coffee flavors. Upon ordering my Gelato Affogato, I drowned it in Crème de Cassis (though the resto also offers espresso and Bailey's). I loved how the fruity black currant taste nourished the Italian ice cream.

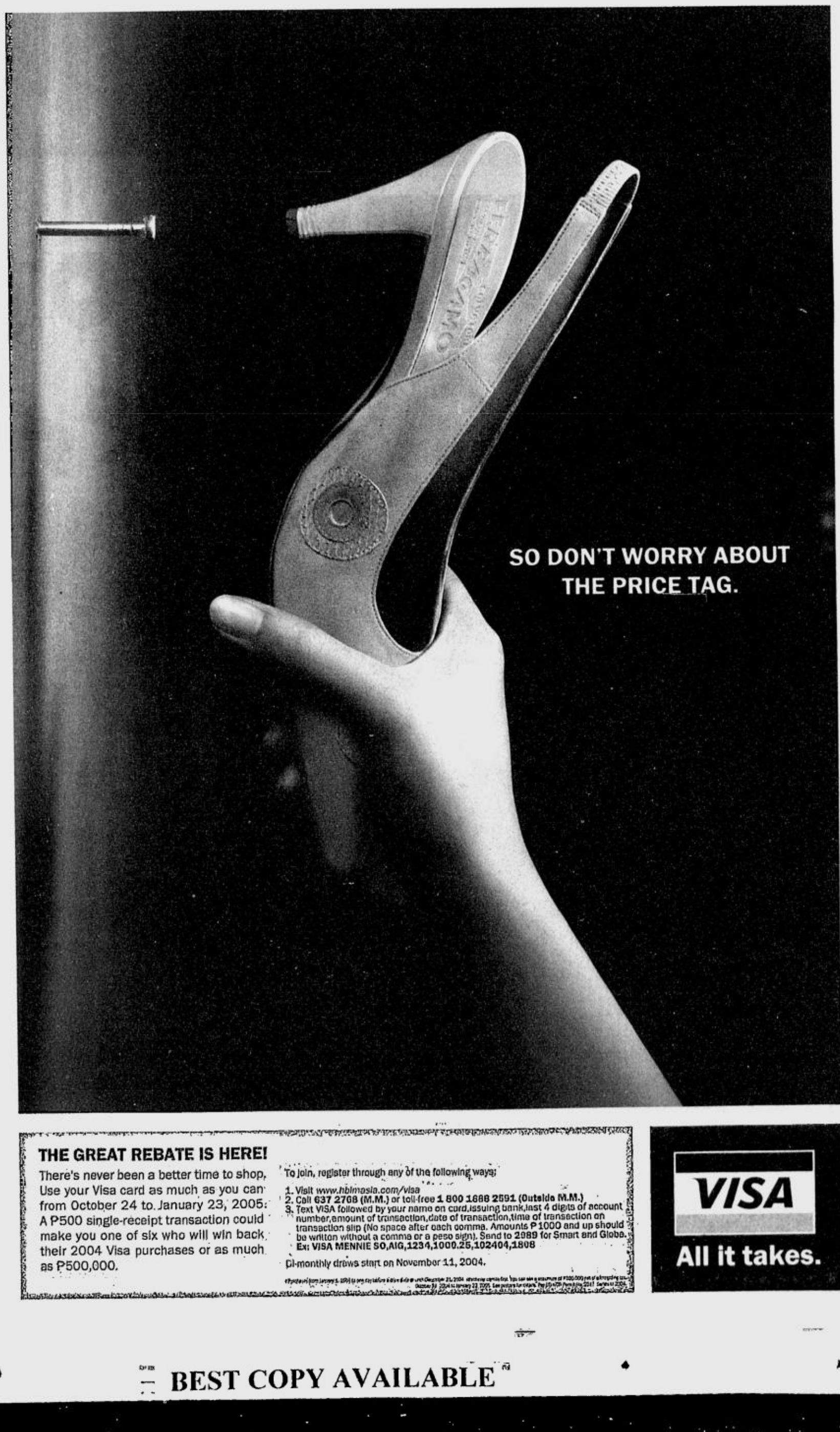
There was one more surprise. Gourdo's also raffled off some items from their retail store. I won a basket of coffee mugs, oil and vinegar bottles, cookie jars, etc.

I did not eat anything the next day and I didn't really care. After having stuffed myself with some of the best restaurants at The Fort, everything else paled in comparison. The glutton in me had been satisfied and days after, it was still basking in the savory aftermath.

E-mail the author at chloe_dominique@yahoo.com



YOU CAN WIN BACK YOUR 2004 PURCHASES* WITH VISA.



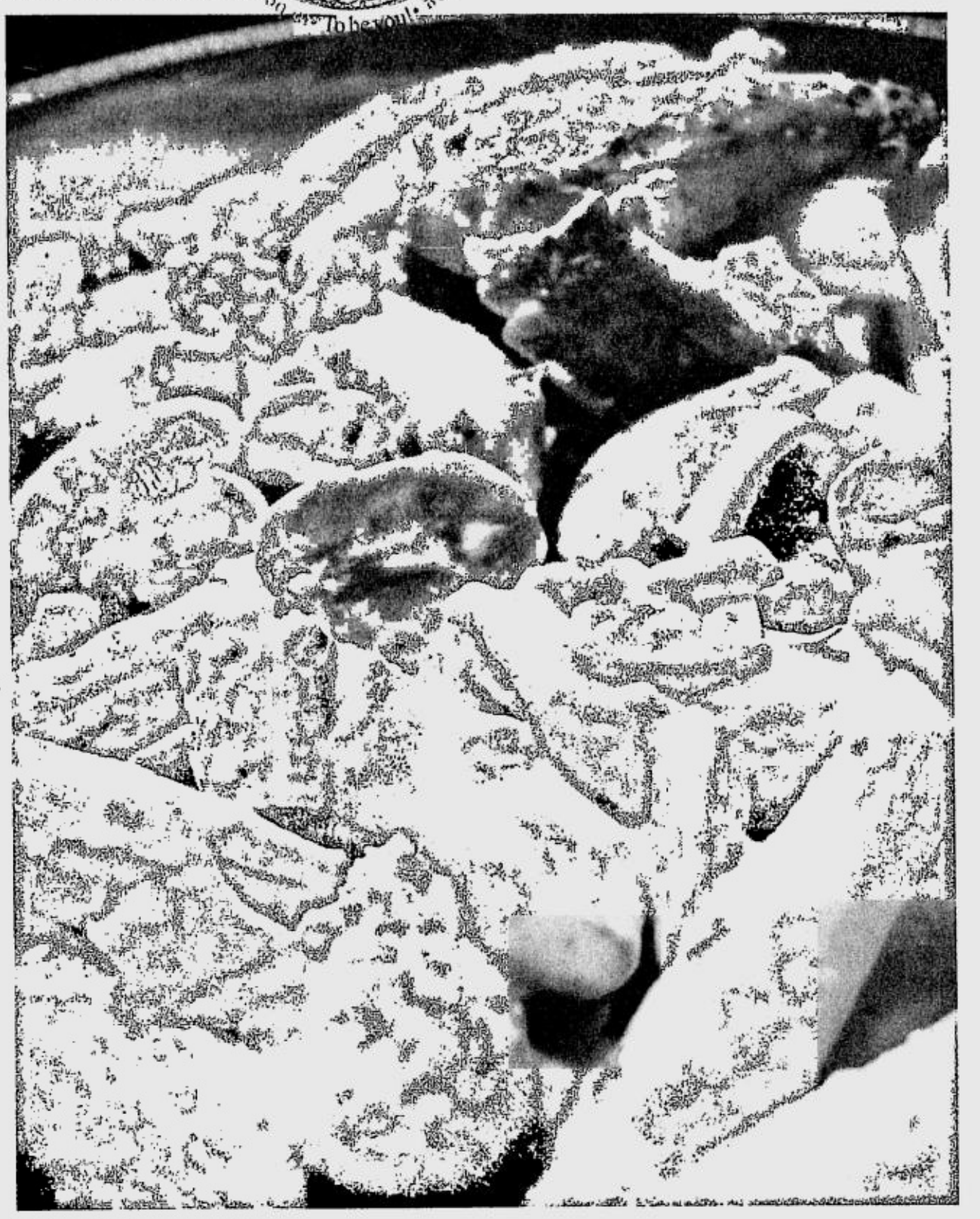
THE GREAT REBATE IS HERE!
There's never been a better time to shop. Use your Visa card as much as you can from October 24 to January 23, 2005. A P500 single-receipt transaction could make you one of six who will win back their 2004 Visa purchases or as much as P500,000.

To join, register through any of the following ways:
1. Visit www.hblmasia.com/visa
2. Call 637 2768 (M.M.) or toll-free 1 800 1688 2591 (Outside M.M.)
3. Text VISA followed by your name on card,issuing bank,last 4 digits of account number,amount of transaction,date of transaction,time of transaction on transaction slip (No space after each comma. Amounts P1000 and up should be written without a comma or a peso sign). Send to 2989 for Smart and Globe.
Ex: VISA MENNIE SO,AIG,1234,1000.25,102404,1808

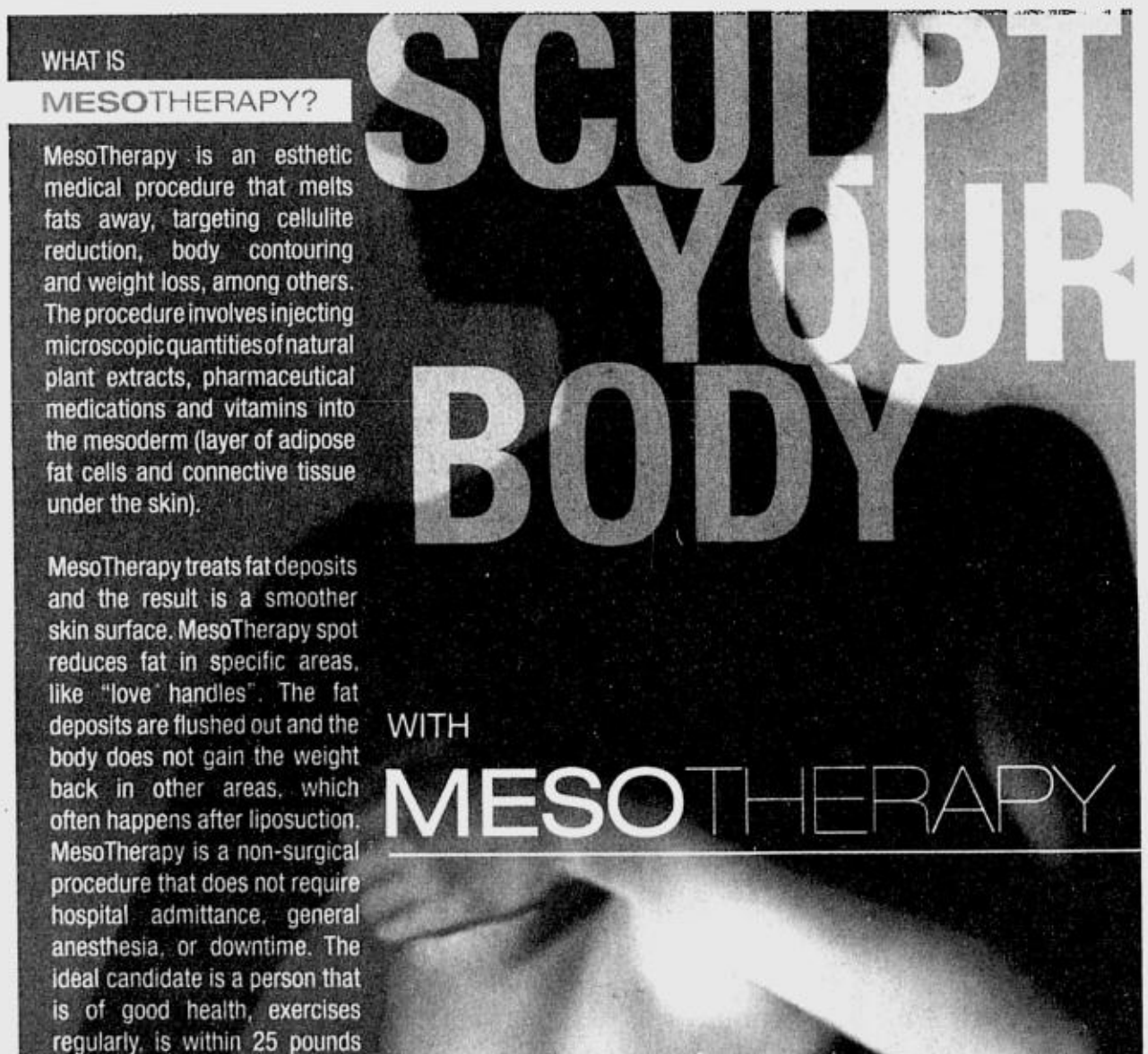
Bi-monthly draws start on November 11, 2004.

VISA
All it takes.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE



CREAMY Mushroom Chicken



Potluck sessions

From page G3

This can be served as is, or you can also cut the chicken into bite-size pieces and add to a salad of mixed greens and diced tomatoes tossed in dressing. We recommend Gourmet's Herb Cheese Dressing or Garlic Dressing.

Bananacles

Even hodge-podge Christmas feasting doesn't end until dessert is served. Since everybody is bound to be sick of the perennial fruitcake, offer to bring something different, like Bananacles. By coating the bananas in green, red and yellow-colored chocolate, this school canteen favorite of old is given a yuletide twist. Best of all, its a no-fuss treat you can whip up in a mere 30 minutes!

6 large bananas
Popsicle or lollipop sticks
½ c each colored chocolate (chocolate coating available in various colors in specialty shops. Choose red, green and yellow).
Canola oil
½ c each chocolate coating (dark or white)
Roasted nuts

Cut bananas in half crosswise. Pierce one side with popsicle or lollipop sticks.

Melt the colored chocolate in individual bowls in the microwave. Heat in a microwave oven on medium heat.

Stir the chocolate at 15 second intervals (be careful, colored chocolate burns easily). You can drop a little canola oil to loosen the melted chocolate coating.

Put the chopped nuts on a tray. Dip the bananas into desired color and roll them on chopped nuts.

Transfer to a tray and freeze. When hard, wrap in plastic and store in a covered container in the freezer.

(Recipe from "Recipes For Easy Entertaining Cookbook" from ABS-CBN Publishing)

Sassy Sangria

Beer may be a staple for weekend parties but the holiday season calls for something more festive and sophisticated.

Grab one of those corporate gift bottles of wine given to your parents from under the tree, raid the pantry for juice and fruit, and you're all set to give this drink recipe a try.

1 gallon dry red wine
1/2 c white sugar
1 (46 oz) can pineapple juice
1 (8 oz) can pineapple chunks
1 orange, sliced into rounds
1 lime, sliced into rounds

In a large punch bowl combine red wine, sugar and pineapple juice. Mix in the pineapple chunks, orange slices and lime slices. Serve chilled.

(Recipe from www.allrecipes.com)

If you fail to channel your inner chef for the potluck party because you're short on time or short on culinary know how, its time to call your friendly neighborhood food entrepreneurs.

Try Apple's Kitchen at 7247868, 7269820 or 0917-8436573. They offer party platters good for 10-12 people. Prices range from P400-P850. Also, AnnieBee Delights at 196 Tagaytay St., Justinneville Subd. Bacoor, Cavite can cater to people from the South Area. Call 046-5719874. You can also ask relatives and friends for their own recommendations.

E-mail the authors at zeecastro@yahoo.com and elicano_ar@yahoo.com

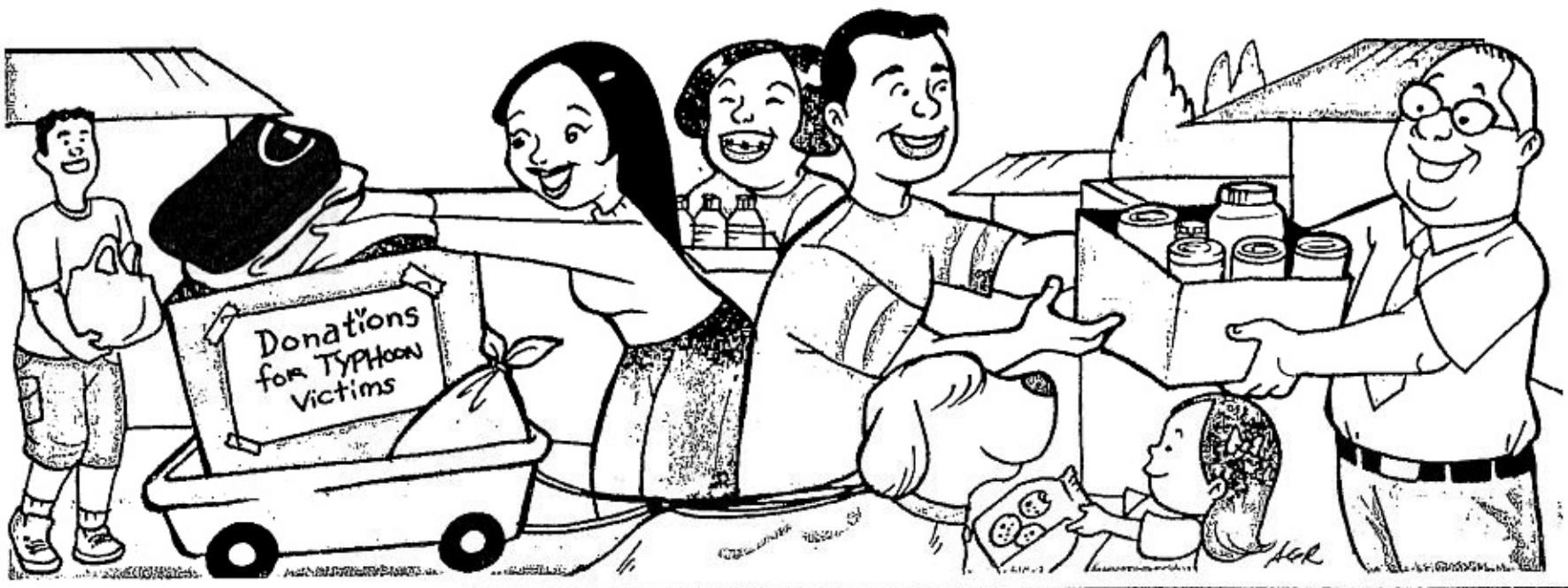
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2004

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

LIFESTYLE

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback:
Inquirer life name/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)



It could have been you. But you were spared. Now how are you going to say thank you?

Give a little love this Christmas

By Pam Pastor

While some of us were thankful for the extra-long weekend, just outside the city, typhoon Yoyong caused countless people pain and suffering.

Can you imagine losing your belongings, your home and worse, your loved ones, just before Christmas? I cannot even fathom the anguish of that.

Now, hundreds (even thousands) of them are packed in various evacuation centers all over, with hardly anything to eat and nothing to keep them warm.

It could have been us, but we were spared. How are we going to say thank you?

There are a lot of ways. Bring a little holiday cheer to people who need it the most. Here's how:

You don't need to go all the way to Rizal or Quezon. There are various organizations willing to bring your donations to those who need them.

The Inquirer is currently part of the humanitarian effort called "Operation Sagip Buhay" You can drop off your donations at the Philippine Daily Inquirer building, Chino Roces Ave. corner Yague and Mascardo streets.

Send food, blankets, mattresses, and dry clothing to Caritas in Pandacan. Call 5641831.

Bring rice, noodles, sardines, clothing, blankets, and other donations to the ABS-CBN Foundation office at 65 Scout Gandia St., Barangay Laging Handa, Quezon City. Donors may also call 4163650; 4163653; 4163630; 4110846; 4160387; and 9257380.

Cash and check donations may also be given to ABS-CBN Foundation through Equitable PCI-Bank Savings Account 127-6008036 and BPI Current Account 3051-1102-17.

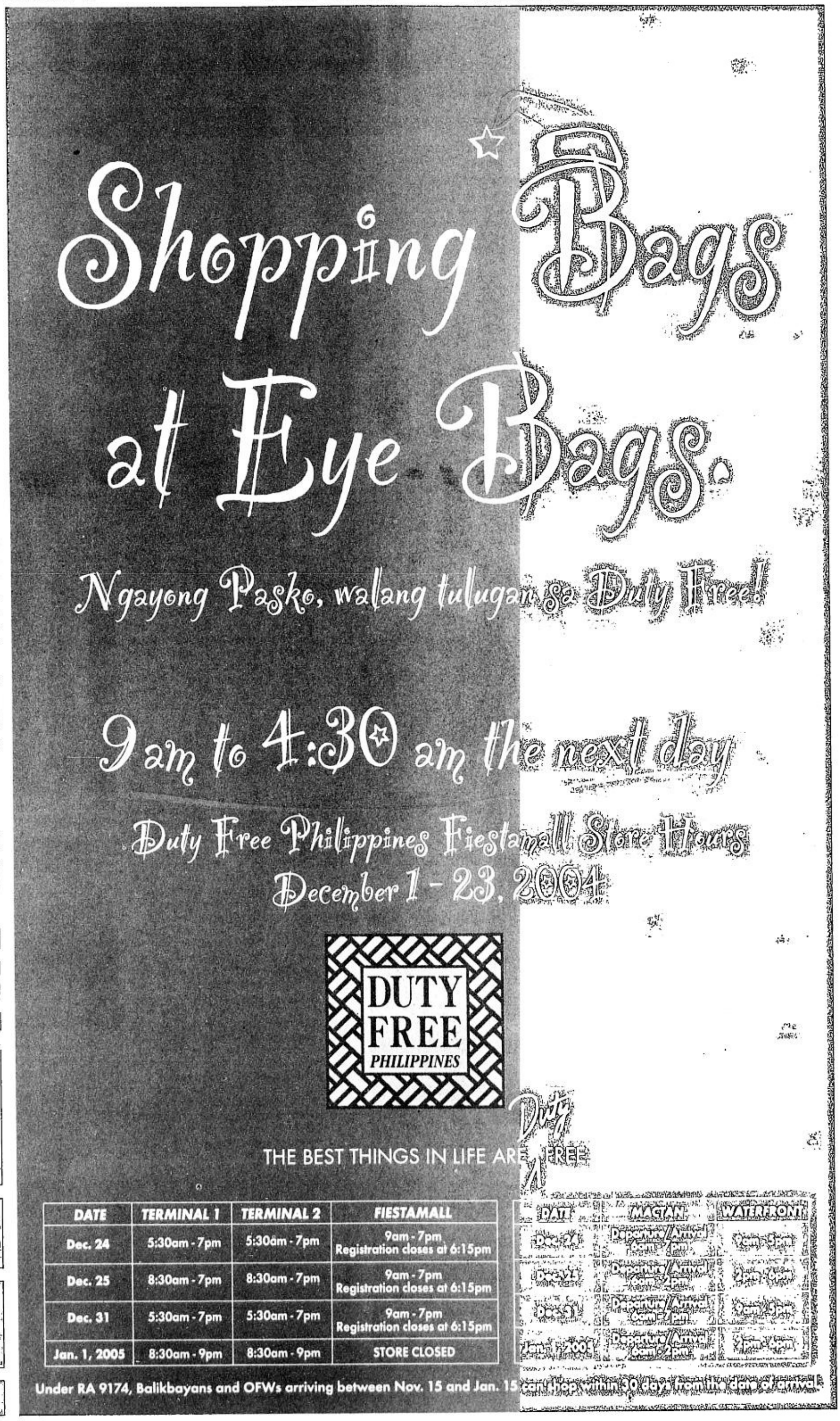
Petron service stations in Metro Manila are also accepting cash and other donations on behalf of ABS-CBN.

Food, medicine, clothes, toiletries, and cash can be brought to the GMA Kapuso Foundation office (EDSA cor 11th Jamboree St., Dilliman, QC.) or at drop-off centers at Ever Gotesco malls and McDonald's outlets. Call 9284299/9289351 or e-mail gmaf@gmanetwork.com and bisigbayan@gmanetwork.com.

Cash donations may be deposited at any Metrobank branch under the name of GMA Kapuso Foundation.

Construction materials, corn seeds and other means by which people can start rebuilding their homes and their sources of living would be appreciated too.

Lastly, let's not forget to pray for them.



THE STUDENTS leave the SOS Village with fond memories of the children at the village.

Camp for future leaders

CHILDREN at the SOS Village are fascinated by the instruments, music and dance of Kontra-Gapi.

KONTRA-GAPI performs for the children of SOS Village.

By Arlene M. Paredes
2bU! Correspondent
Photos by Arlene M. Paredes and Guada Ramos

A LEADERSHIP camp tried to make some 50 young Filipinos reconsider their negative views about the Philippines.

The leadership and team-building camp was organized by the Galing Pilipino Movement (GPM), a non-stock, non-profit organization seeking to boost Filipino excellence and pride.

From Nov. 12 to 15, 2bU! joined 50 students from different high schools, colleges and universities—San Beda College, Polytechnic University f the Philippines (Sta. Mesa), Adamson University, UP Diliman, De La Salle University, Far Eastern University, University of Asia and the Pacific, College of the Holy Spirit, Asia Pacific College, Technological Institute of the Philippines, Baliuag University, University of San Carlos (Cebu) and Sunrise Christian College (Butuan City)—in a camp to fulfill the GPM mission to "build the person, build the heart, build the spirit" of young Filipino leaders.

"We want the participants of the workshop to focus on the 'galing' of Filipinos and hopefully, we could establish 'a community of leaders' and subsequently a 'nation of character,'" said Erlinda De Guzman, president and founder of GPM.

PARTICIPANTS come from different universities and parts of the country but they seem to have been friends for a long time.

Before heading to the training venue in La Corona De Pagsanjan, participants first visited the SOS Village in Lipa City. SOS Village is home to several "family houses" for orphaned and abused children. GPM has been one of SOS' partners.

Speakers included Edru Abraham, founder of Kontemporaryong Gamelan Pilipino (KONTRA-GAPI), the resident ethnic music and dance ensemble of the College of Arts and Letters of UP Diliman; Bobbie Lagman, wife of slain labor leader Felimon "Popoy" Lagman; and Dr. Jose Pepito Manansala Cunanan, founder of Sigla Earth Energy. They stressed love of country to the participants.

Enlightening

"The GPM camp enlightened me," said Jessie Consolacion, Education student from PUP-Sta. Mesa. "I now know that I have to do something not only for myself but for my country."

For her part, 14-year-old Erica May Naranjo from Christian Values School, said, "I realized that even in the midst of all our hardships, some good things still happen.")

Krischelle Mayuga, 20, AB Political Science student from FEU, said, "One thing I learned from the camp is that the Philippine case is not hopeless, as long as there are still Filipinos who are willing to help our country."

Paul Ryan Espina, 25, former Political Science student at UP-Cebu and an Accountancy graduate in the Technological Institute of the Philippines (TIP), added, "GPM camp surprised me. I went there to have fun, but it was more than just fun. Now I feel rejuvenated (to) do great things like I'd dreamed of before."

The most anticipated and most exciting part of the camp, however, was the Ropes Course Challenge in La Corona De Pagsanjan. The course reinforced the lessons that campers had learned from the lectures.

Although the campers had not known at first what to expect from the camp, at the end of the training, everyone did not just go home rich in new learning and new friends, but more important, with renewed hope for the country and renewed faith in the Filipino.

They are now all fired up in making a difference in the world—as Filipinos.

Call 6313932 or e-mail kwento@galing-pilipino.com.

E-mail the author at lhen@postmark.net.

HIGH Y. The objective of the challenge is for partners to traverse on separate ropes from one single pole to two separate poles at the end. Holding on to their ropes for balance and support, they have to carefully signal each other when to pull on the rope and when to relax the grip.

The Galing Pilipino Movement inspires Filipino youth to serve the country

SIZE doesn't matter in Trust Fall. This team believes there is no weight its members can't carry, or catch, together.

A DANCE number for the campers

FROM the ground, campers hold their breath in awe as two of their fellow campers walk on ropes for the High Y Challenge.

ANOTHER performance from Kontra-Gapi

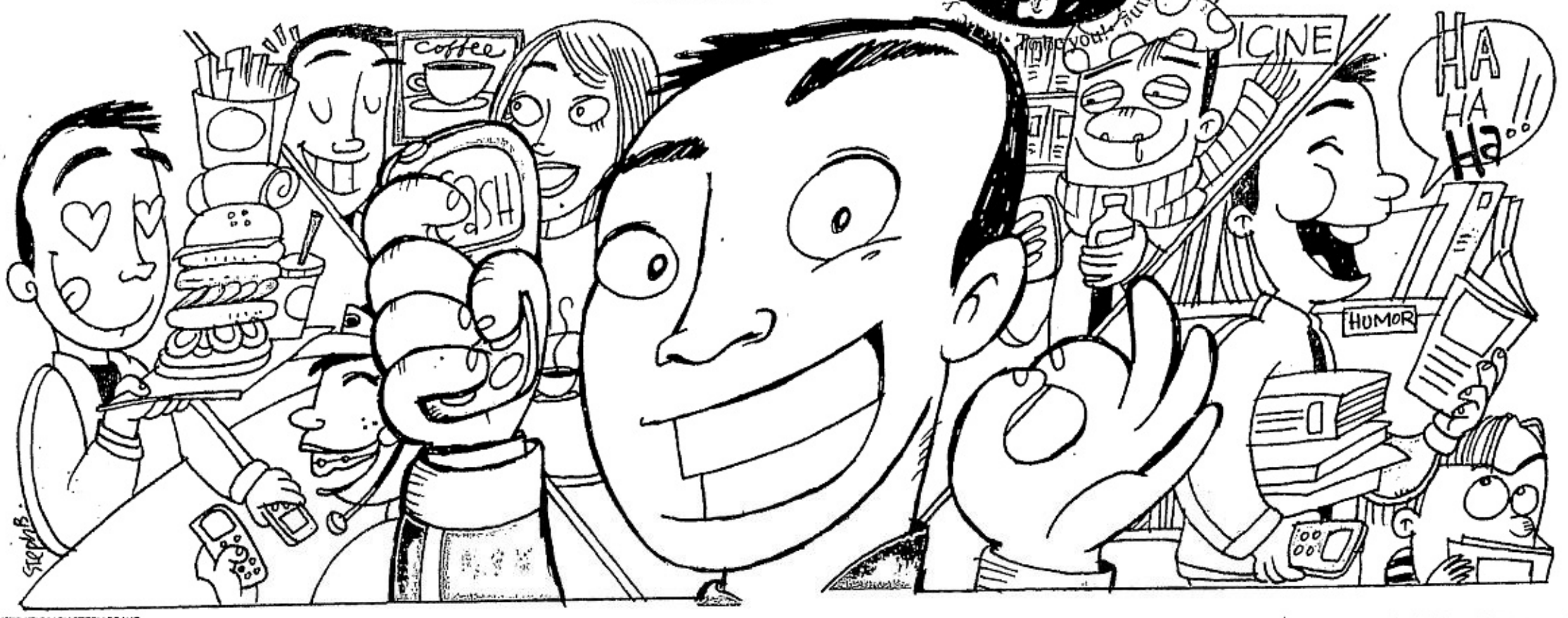


ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

cash n' call

Globe Telecom transforms the mobile phones of Globe Handyphone and Touch Mobile subscribers into wallets through G-Cash

By Niño Mark M. Sablan
2bU! Correspondent

WHEN the mobile phone was introduced, we were all enthralled.

But remember how even more enthralled we got when the cellular phone also became a video game player, a walkman, a recorder, a camera and a videocam?

Well, now it's time to be amazed once again as Globe Telecom transforms the mobile phones of Globe Handyphone and Touch Mobile subscribers into wallets through G-Cash.

Using G-Cash, subscribers can now use their phones to make purchases or payments in accredited establishments.

Hungry for some Burger King or Max's? Need to buy some painkillers from the nearest Mercury Drug store? Want to treat yourself to a good read from National Book Store? Well, you can do these things even without bills and coins, as long as you are loaded with Globe G-Cash.

How to activate

To activate your G-Cash service, register by sending REG <4-digit M-PIN>/ <Mother's maiden name>/ <First name>/ <Last name>/ <Address>/ <Telephone number with code area> to 2882. You will then receive a text message confirming your registration.

Once registered, you can receive G-Cash from other subscribers or load G-Cash into your phone by going to any authorized G-Cash outlet which accepts cash-in transactions.

Show the required identification to the frontliner, give him your cash plus the processing fee and wait for him to instantly send the G-Cash to your mobile number.

With this facility, parents in the province can send baon to their kids studying in Manila, while breadwinners in the city can remit money to their families in the countryside. OFWs, too, can now send much-needed money to their loved ones at the speed of a text message.

Apart from being easy to use, the G-Cash mobile wallet is also safe. It is protected with a PIN known only to the user, a password that can be change anytime. Transactions are supported by text advisories to both the sender and recipient with unique trace numbers.

And in case you lose your G-Cash loaded phone, you can still claim your G-Cash by reporting the loss to 24-hour hotlines that will block access to your G-Cash wallet. You may then go to any Globe Business Center and present a valid ID in order to unblock the access and reclaim your G-Cash.

Experience it for yourself by texting G-Cash to 2882.

Concert Schedules:

December 8
Acoustic Jive
Ferdie
2nd Call Band
Jenny Miller
Angeline Aguilar
Go Girls dancers
E-Male dancers
Hosts: Ate Gay & Janel

December 11
Karyll
D'Bodies
Minstrels band
1728 Acoustic band
Melissa Ricks
Raphael Martinez
Flawless Dancers
Hosts: Chocoleit & Ate Gay

December 12
Rachel Ann Go
Chyna Ortaleza
Tyrone Perez
Free Male Dancers
Host: Dang Cruz

December 18
Jed Madela & Prime Council
Mocha & Spin Band
Cherry Lou
Janel
Go Girls dancers
E-Male Dancers
Hosts: Ate Gay & Anton Diva

December 19
Sarah Geronimo
Chyna Ortaleza
Tyrone Perez
Free Male Dancers
Host: Dang Cruz

December 22
Sarah Geronimo
Chyna Ortaleza
Tyrone Perez
Free Male Dancers
Host: Dang Cruz

December 23
Christian Bautista
OJ Mariano
Oona R & B
Roxanne & Joross
Viva Hot Babes
Flawless Dancers
Hosts: Ate Gay & Anton Diva

Under RA 9174, Balikbayans and OFWs arriving between Nov. 15 and Jan. 15 can shop within 30 days from the date of arrival.

Vote for the Best and Worst of 2004

2003's BEST actress Kate Hudson

AMONG last year's big winners were F4, Parokya ni Edgar, Beyonce, Sophie Kinsella, Finding Nemo, Kate Hudson, CSI, In Style, J. Lo, badminton, Bench, Rustan's U, Mandy Moore and Jennifer Garner.

Who will be the big winners of 2004?

We want you to be the judge again. Tell us who you think deserve to be hailed the Best and Worst of 2004 under the following categories:

"FINDING Nemo" was rated movie of the year.

Music: band, song, singer, radio station, radio DJ, music video, album packaging, concert

Film: movie, actor, actress

Recreation: mall, movie theater

Fashion: male model, female model, fashion designer, brand, shop, trend, accessory, fashion icon

Health and beauty: beauty product, spa, salon, hairstyle, fitness regimen

Literature: book, writer, magazine

Food: restaurant, dish, fast food

Sports: athlete, UAAP team, NCAA team

Television: commercial, TV show, TV actress, TV actor, VJ, music channel

Technology: website, gadget, game

Send your answers to 2bU! Best and Worst of 2004 Poll, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Ave. corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati; or e-mail contest2bu@inquirer.com.ph. Have your answers in by 12 p.m. on Dec. 25.

BEYONCE ruled according to you.

Be a part of our Christmas issue

WE invite you to tell our readers about your favorite holiday memories.

Please feel free to send in entries from your journal, pages from real scrapbooks, e-mail or text exchanges, photographs, poetry, songs, essays, greeting cards—anything about Christmas.

It can be happy, sad, exciting, strange—anything you want.

You can be vague or you can zoom in on one tiny detail—maybe an essay about the madness of Christmas shopping or about the first Christmas Eve you spent away from home.

We want to read about all kinds of Christmas. We want to laugh, we want to cry, we want warm and fuzzy feelings.

We want our readers to identify with your experiences.

And if you know other people who have stories to share—tell them to send their stories too.

The best entries will be included in our Christmas special.

Let us into your world.

Let's make this Christmas one to be remembered.

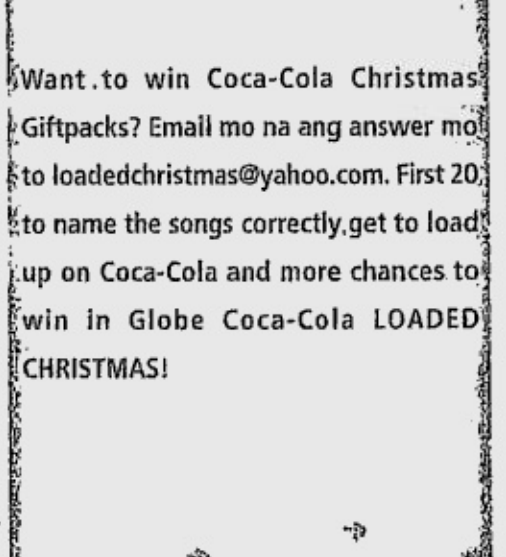
Please send your submissions to Ls_2bu@inquirer.com.ph by Dec. 17, 3 p.m.

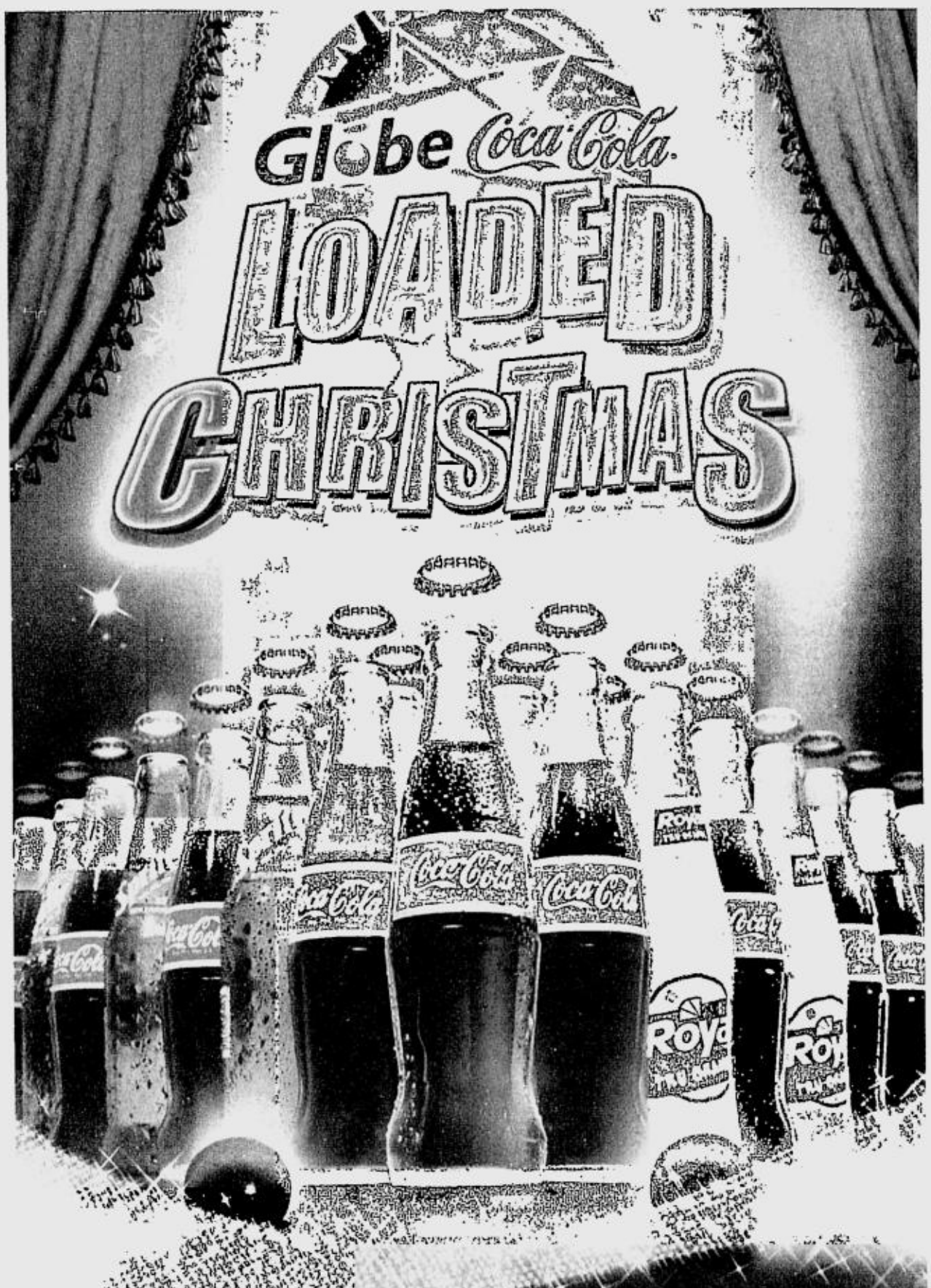
Grab a COKE at mag-CAROLING tayo!!!

Christmas na! Christmas na! Tingnan nga natin ang galing mo sa mga paboritong Christmas carols! Hulaan lang kung saang kanta galing ang mga lyrics na ito!

1. Laughing all the way
2. O hear the angel voices
3. Faithful friends who are dear to us
4. Paano ang paskong inulila mo?
5. May tatlong haring nagsidalaw
6. You would even say it glows
7. Fa la la la la
8. O kay tulin ng araw
9. Five golden rings
10. You better not pout

Want to win Coca-Cola Christmas Giftpacks? Email mo na ang answer mo to loadedchristmas@yahoo.com. First 20 to name the songs correctly get to load up on Coca-Cola and more chances to win in Globe Coca-Cola LOADED CHRISTMAS!





LOAD UP ON COKE FOR OVER A HUNDRED MILLION PESOS* WORTH OF INSTANT PRIZES!

Drink Coca-Cola, Sprite or Royal Tru-Orange and look under the crown or cap. You can win any of the following;

1. FREE ₱1000 GLOBE AUTOLOAD LOAD**

Look for this sign at the nearest sari-sari store to claim your ** free Globe or Touch Mobile AutoloadMAX load. Surrender ang winning crown/cap. Winning crown/cap can only be used once.

2. Discounts on Coke 8oz (237mL)

Ipunin ang piso crowns or caps to get discounts or to buy more Coke!

LESS ₱1 ON COKE 8oz = ₱1 DISCOUNT

Claim discounts/free Coke at any authorized promo redemption center or participating sari-sari store. Surrender ang winning crown/cap(s). Winning crown/cap(s) can only be used once.

3. GLOBE Prepaid Phonekit

any ten (10) caps or crowns + GLOBE PREPAID SIM PHONEKIT 3315 = 1 GLOBE Prepaid Phonekit crown/cap

Claim free GLOBE Prepaid Phonekit at any Coca-Cola Plant or Sales office. Magdala lang ng any two (2) valid IDs with your crown/caps and winning crown/cap.

LAHAT NG CROWNS PWEDENG MANALO! KAYA INOM NA! COLLECT NA!

PROMO PERIOD: OCTOBER 24-DECEMBER 31, 2004

PER DOH-BFAD PERMIT NO. I221 s. 2004

* You can also join the other promotions of the Globe Coca-Cola Loaded Christmas to win more prizes.

"Coca-Cola", "Sprite", "Royal", the Dynamic Ribbon device and the design of the Contour Bottle are registered trademarks of The Coca-Cola Company. © 2004 The Coca-Cola Company

WHATTAMOUTH 2BU!'S CHOICE AWARD

Help create the world's biggest photo mosaic!

EARLY this year, thousands of people puckered their lips and helped the country bag the Guinness World Record for most number of couples kissing simultaneously.

This time, Close-up gives you another chance to become part of a world record. And there will be no kissing involved (unless you want to, of course). In January next year, Close-up will attempt to break the record for the Largest Photo Mosaic. And because it'll be using 200,000 pictures to achieve that, it needs your photos.

Yes, your photos.

And since this is such a fun project, 2bU! decided to join in on the excitement by helping Close-up collect your fab photos.

We want you to send us photos of your "great mouth moments." It can be funny, silly photos of you, your friends and your family. Get creative, have fun.

And to thank you for your efforts, the entries that will qualify will automatically be included in Close-up's Largest Mosaic.

Eight weekly winners will also be chosen starting today until Jan. 7, 2005. Weekly winners will bring home a gift pack from Close-up, a Canon Pixma IP1000 Printer and a pair of Converse Chuck Taylors or Converse Gift Certificates worth P2,000.

At the end of the promo, 2bU! will choose a grand prize winner from the eight weekly winners and that lucky reader will be awarded a Canon Powershot A400 digital camera and P5,000 worth of gift certificates from Converse.

The mosaic will be unveiled nationwide on Jan. 29, 2005 and Close-up will tell you exactly where your picture is located. All qualified entries received within the promo period will also be automatically entered in the Close-up Whattamouth raffle draws where you can win great prizes like camera phones and P100,000. The grand prize winner will win P1,000,000.

There's no reason not to join. A camera—or even a million pesos—is just a snapshot away.

How to join:

1. In an envelope, enclose the following:

a. A photo of your great mouth moment (any colored photo—at least 3x5—which captures you enjoying life with your mouth, such as laughing, singing, eating, kissing, etc.)

b. Proof of purchase of any of the following:

- five New Close-up sachets (any flavor)
- two New Close-up 25-ml cartons (any flavor)
- one New Close-up 50-ml, 100-ml or 150-ml carton

c. Your personal details—your name, address, contact numbers, age and signature

2. Outside the envelope, write the following:

a. 2bU! Whattamouth! Promo

b. Your name, address and signature

3. Send entries to 2bU!, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces cor. Mascardo and Yague Sts., Makati City.

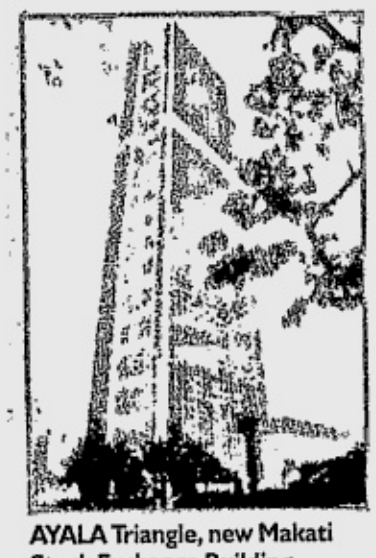
DMCI's 50 years of Passionate Building

As D. M. Consunji Incorporated (DMCI) celebrates its 50th Anniversary, the country's leading construction company marks fifty years of innovation and leadership in both building and in nation-building.

DMCI was founded on December 24, 1954 by David M. Consunji, a civil engineer from the University of the Philippines. Over the years, both the man and the company he founded grew "in wisdom and in grace," becoming the nation's acknowledged leader in the building of every conceivable structure and all stages of the construction business.

DMCI's reputation as a pioneering builder remains as enviable as ever. Through continuing research, DMCI has become the acknowledged innovator of advanced construction technology in the Philippines. Because of this, DMCI has kept both its old clients and continues to add to its ever-lengthening list of satisfied customers.

The company has received various awards including "Outstanding Contractor for Building" in 1992, a certificate of appreciation from the U.S. Department of the Navy, and a Safety Award from Flour Daniels Corporation for 2 million accident-free man-hours of work at the Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation's STAR project.



AYALA Triangle, new Makati Stock Exchange Building

Consunji himself was cited as one of the four awardees of The Outstanding Filipinos (TOFIL) of 2002 for his invaluable contribution to development and progress.

It's probably because Consunji considers himself to be more than just a builder and his work not merely structures of stone, steel and glass. "Construction is not only a science but also an art. No matter how strictly you comply with the procedures, if the product is not favorable, nobody will appreciate it. Your client will not be satisfied with it," Consunji says.

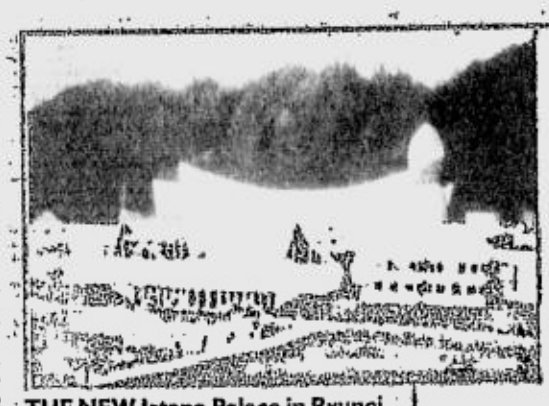
DMCI's motto says it all: Speed, Skill, and Responsibility. To the founder and his company, clients, suppliers and employees are foremost in every project.

Through five decades, the company has stuck with its belief that construction is a noble profession vital to economic development and national progress, and that fair competition is essential to the growth and stability of the entire country.

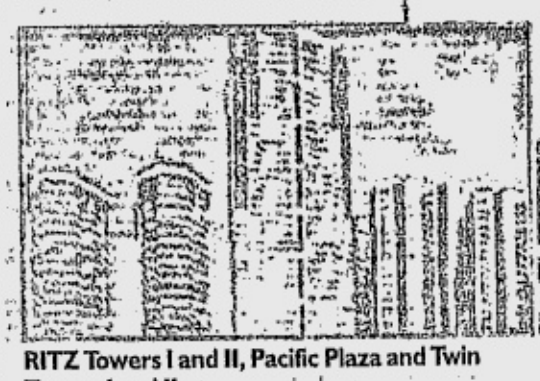
The DMCI logo

Consunji conceived the predominantly blue color of the DMCI logo because blue is the color of service and construction is about service.

"The rectangle represents responsibility in absolute terms. It is closed, complete. To me, being responsible is the first and most important attribute of a builder. He is responsible when he has all the resources of a builder-knowledge, experience, materials, and equipment-and when he harnesses these resources to do the job competently and to complete it on time. The ellipse, to my mind, is a representation of skill. Skill translates to grace, elegance and beauty. Work done with skill is beautiful. And a good builder should always strive for a beautiful structure," Consunji explains.



THE NEW Istana Palace in Brunei



RITZ Towers I and II, Pacific Plaza and Twin Towers I and II

ASIAN Hospital in Muntinlupa

Another very important attribute of a builder is speed, which is possible only by having skilled workers and all the right tools. "To represent speed, I used the rocket, which is the fastest vehicle man has invented," he says.

Contributions and innovation to the construction industry

As early as 1954, DMCI was using existing construction equipment to design above-industry-average concrete strength of 2,000 psi to 3,000 psi in the construction of the UP Chapel. The domed church was such a structural feat at the time that a virtual who's who in the construction industry regularly visited the jobsite to witness the construction.

In the early 60s, Philippine National Bank's Escolta head office was the country's biggest single construction project. Due to its cramped location in downtown Manila, DMCI pioneered the use of the first building tower crane to transport materials and concrete vertically. DMCI was also able to locally source the required metal frameworks that exceeded the strictest requirements. To this day, the old PNB Escolta building remains one of the strongest structures in an area where many structures have been brought down or seriously damaged by earthquakes.

DMCI used innovative US precast concrete technology for the construction of the Teresa housing project in Novaliches and a four-storey Dominican building in España. These were the earliest pre-cast concrete buildings in the country.

In 1974, after the government committed to host the Miss Universe Pageant, the Folk Arts Theater in Manila's reclaimed area was chosen as the venue. Given a very short 77 days to complete the project, DMCI took on the task of general contractor to supervise the work.

To ensure on-time completion, DMCI used modular construction designs and Pert-CPM schedulers to guide the project team.

In the 80s, DMCI was commissioned to construct a 20-km water duct line to connect Ipo Dam to the Balara filtration plant in Quezon City. DMCI applied value engineering in duct construction. Procedures were reviewed and revised, and metal roll forms were conceptualized and fabricated to achieve the required construction quality and complete the project on schedule.

DMCI also takes pride in introducing the table formwork system during the concreting stage of the Pacific Plaza. The system ensures predictability and sustainability as well as quality. Pacific Plaza was the first building locally to require the high-quality concrete strength of 6000 psi.

In the early 90s, 8000 psi concrete was used for the construction of the Mega Petron building in Makati. DMCI was the first to perfect the use of locally available additives (fly ash) for the project.

DMCI, together with Bachy Soletanche HK, also introduced barette piles instead of concrete driven piles for the construction of SM Cebu Shopping Mall.

Today, DMCI continuously challenges its organization to adapt to the new methodologies and technologies needed to sustain the construction industry's growth. The best evidence of this can be seen in DMCI's current railway, power plant, waterworks and sewerage system projects.

The search for more efficient construction methodologies is the company's corporate mantra to achieve the best work at the most efficient cost and in the shortest time possible.

DMCI goes public

In December 18, 1995, DMCI Holdings Inc went public in an Initial Public Offering. Under the holding firm are wholly owned subsidiaries D.M. Consunji, Inc, the construction group, and DMCI Project Developers Inc, the real estate and infrastructure investment group.

D.M. Consunji is engaged in general construction services - the company's core business. It is

DMCI/ 12

DMCI Homes builds exclusive communities with country club amenities

DMCI Homes has been in the business since 2000 only but has been making big strides largely because of the high quality of its projects and a growing base of satisfied clients.

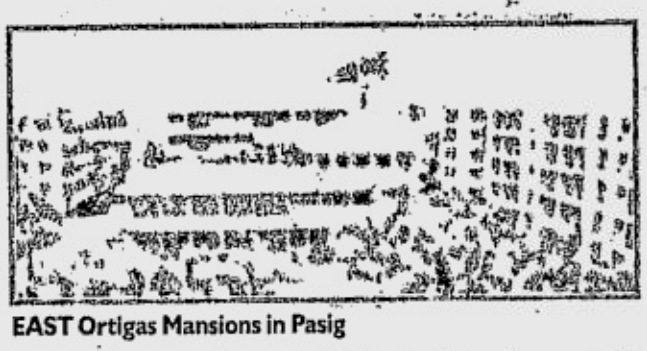
The property development business unit of the D.M. Consunji Group of Companies already has 10 residential developments in Metro Manila, each one offering ready-for-occupancy units. More projects are in the pipeline in the coming years, including joint ventures with landowners.

"If you look at our units, you will notice immediately the high quality of our finishes. That is an advantage we have because we are supported by the 50 years of experience and expertise of DMCI in construction," said Freddie Austria, head of DMCI Homes.

DMCI Homes, he added, builds exclusive, secure, landscaped and well-planned communities with country club amenities.

But while the projects' quality is high and the overall ambience is exclusive, the prices are comparatively very reasonable. "Again, our advantage is having a big construction company backing us up. This synergy allows us to pass on to our clients the savings in terms of lower prices which, depending on the location in Metro Manila," he said.

So far, DMCI Homes has sold more than 1,000 units from its various projects in Metro Manila, namely: Vista de Lago, Lakeview Manors, Rainbow Ridge, and Spring Lane Homes in Taguig; East Ortigas Mansions in Pasig; Hampstead Gardens in Sta. Mesa; Villa Alegre in Cavite; Palm Grove in Parañaque; and Mayfield Park Residences in Cainta.

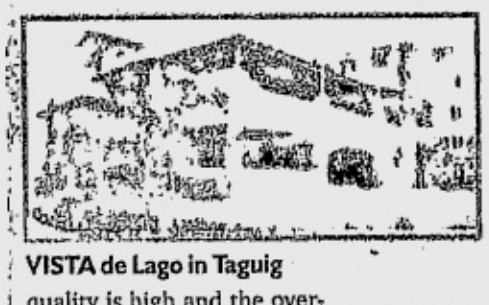


EAST Ortigas Mansions in Pasig

Early next year, the company will start work on three projects in Metro Manila.

DMCI HOMES DEVELOPMENT FEATURES

• Low-density living. The total building footprint in each DMCI Homes development covers only 30 percent of the total land area. Medium-rise walk-up condominium buildings are designed with single-loaded corridors where units open up to well-landscaped open space and not to a neighbor's door for optimum privacy.



VISTA de Lago in Taguig

•High-end amenities. Central to any DMCI Homes community are luxurious lifestyle amenities such as swimming pool, clubhouse and sports facilities for the residents to enjoy any time of the day.

• Wide and well-landscaped open spaces are commonly found in a DMCI Homes' gated community.

• Ready-for-occupancy units. DMCI Homes offers readily available units and/or fast turnover of no longer than one year from the start of construction.

• High-quality workmanship. Only first-class materials and world-class construction methods are used, reflecting DMCI's trusted expertise in the business.

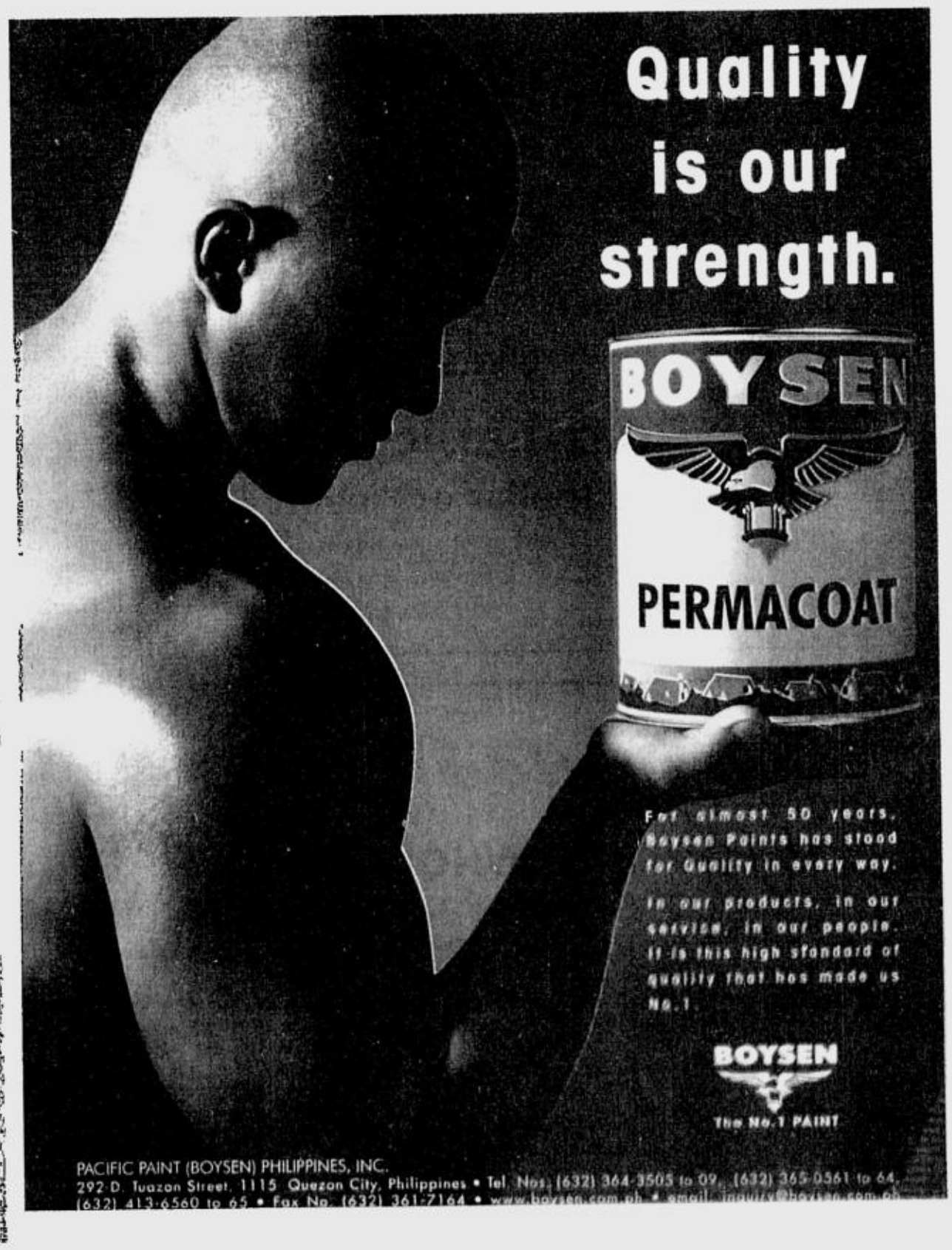
•Quality Warranty. DMCI Homes is the only developer that warrants to repair material and workmanship defects on the unit, if any, within one year from the date of buyer's acceptance.

• Exclusivity. Urban communities by DMCI Homes are gated and with perimeter fence for maximum security, putting together an exclusive and family-friendly neighborhood.

• Strategic location. Near Makati and Ortigas central business districts, the developments are conveniently accessible to schools, malls, churches, and government offices.

• Surprisingly affordable. A DMCI Homes condo unit price ranges from P840,000 to P3.9 million. For details, please call 888-333 or visit its website at www.dmci-homes.com.

IBIZA Building of East Ortigas Mansions



BEST COPY AVAILABLE

DMCI's 50 years of Passionate Building

As D. M. Consunji Incorporated (DMCI) celebrates its 50th Anniversary, the country's leading construction company marks fifty years of innovation and leadership in both building and in nation-building.

DMCI was founded on December 24, 1954 by David M. Consunji, a civil engineer from the University of the Philippines. Over the years, both the man and the company he founded grew "in wisdom and in grace," becoming the nation's acknowledged leader in the building of every conceivable structure and all stages of the construction business.

DMCI's reputation as a pioneering builder remains as enviable as ever. Through continuing research, DMCI has become the acknowledged innovator of advanced construction technology in the Philippines. Because of this, DMCI has kept both its old clients and continues to add to its ever-lengthening list of satisfied customers.

The company has received various awards including "Outstanding Contractor for Building" in 1992, a certificate of appreciation from the U.S. Department of the Navy, and a Safety Award from Flour Daniels Corporation for 2 million accident-free man-hours of work at the Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation's STAR project.

AYALA Triangle, new Makati Stock Exchange Building

Consunji himself was cited as one of the four awardees of The Outstanding Filipinos (TOFIL) of 2002 for his invaluable contribution to development and progress.

It's probably because Consunji considers himself to be more than just a builder and his work not merely structures of stone, steel and glass. "Construction is not only a science but also an art. No matter how strictly you comply with the procedures, if the product is not favorable, nobody will appreciate it. Your client will not be satisfied with it," Consunji says.

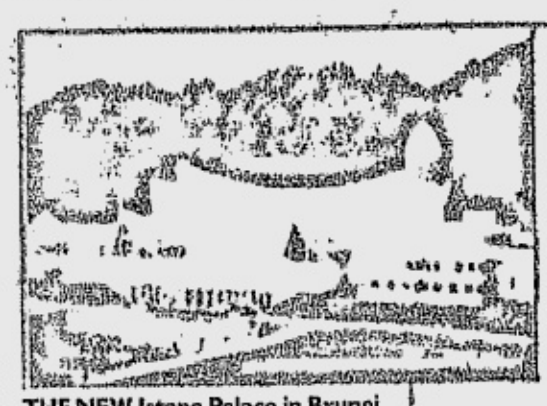
DMCI's motto says it all: Speed, Skill, and Responsibility. To the founder and his company, clients, suppliers and employees are foremost in every project.

Through five decades, the company has stuck with its belief that construction is a noble profession vital to economic development and national progress, and that fair competition is essential to the growth and stability of the entire country.

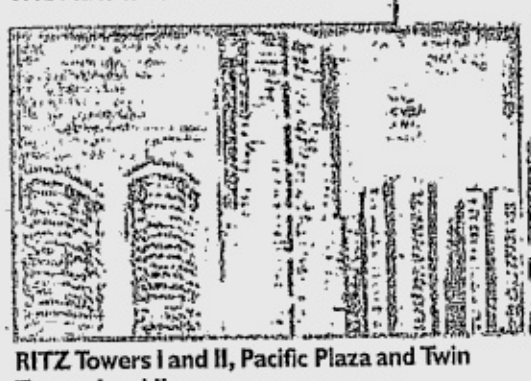
The DMCI logo

Consunji conceived the predominantly blue color of the DMCI logo because blue is the color of service and construction is about service.

"The rectangle represents responsibility in absolute terms. It is closed, complete. To me, being responsible is the first and most important attribute of a builder. He is responsible when he has all the resources of a builder-knowledge, experience, materials, and equipment-and when he harnesses these resources to do the job competently and to complete it on time. The ellipse, to my mind, is a representation of skill. Skill translates to grace, elegance and beauty. Work done with skill is beautiful. And a good builder should always strive for a beautiful structure," Consunji explains.



THE NEW Istana Palace in Brunei



RITZ Towers I and II, Pacific Plaza and Twin Towers I and II

ASIAN Hospital in Muntinlupa

Another very important attribute of a builder is speed, which is possible only by having skilled workers and all the right tools. "To represent speed, I used the rocket, which is the fastest vehicle man has invented," he says.

Contributions and innovation to the construction industry

As early as 1954, DMCI was using existing construction equipment to design above-industry-average concrete strength of 2,000 psi to 3,000 psi in the construction of the UP Chapel. The domed church was such a structural feat at the time that a virtual who's who in the construction industry regularly visited the jobsite to witness the construction.

In the early 60s, Philippine National Bank's Escolta head office was the country's biggest single construction project. Due to its cramped location in downtown Manila, DMCI pioneered the use of the first building tower crane to transport materials and concrete vertically. DMCI was also able to locally source the required metal frameworks that exceeded the strictest requirements. To this day, the old PNB Escolta building remains one of the strongest structures in an area where many structures have been brought down or seriously damaged by earthquakes.

DMCI used innovative US precast concrete technology for the construction of the Teresa housing project in Novaliches and a four-storey Dominican building in España. These were the earliest pre-cast concrete buildings in the country.

In 1974, after the government committed to host the Miss Universe Pageant, the Folk Arts Theater in Manila's reclaimed area was chosen as the venue. Given a very short 77 days to complete the project, DMCI took on the task of general contractor to supervise the work.

To ensure on-time completion, DMCI used modular construction designs and Pert-CPM schedulers to guide the project team.

In the 80s, DMCI was commissioned to construct a 20-km water duct line to connect Ipo Dam to the Balara filtration plant in Quezon City. DMCI applied value engineering in duct construction. Procedures were reviewed and revised, and metal roll forms were conceptualized and fabricated to achieve the required construction quality and complete the project on schedule.

DMCI also takes pride in introducing the table formwork system during the concreting stage of the Pacific Plaza. The system ensures predictability and sustainability as well as quality. Pacific Plaza was the first building locally to require the high-quality concrete strength of 6000 psi.

In the early 90s, 8000 psi concrete was used for the construction of the Mega Petron building in Makati. DMCI was the first to perfect the use of locally available additives (fly ash) for the project.

DMCI, together with Bachy Soletanche HK, also introduced barette piles instead of concrete driven piles for the construction of SM Cebu Shopping Mall.

Today, DMCI continuously challenges its organization to adapt to the new methodologies and technologies needed to sustain the construction industry's growth. The best evidence of this can be seen in DMCI's current railway, power plant, waterworks and sewerage system projects.

The search for more efficient construction methodologies is the company's corporate mantra to achieve the best work at the most efficient cost and in the shortest time possible.

DMCI goes public

In December 18, 1995, DMCI Holdings Inc went public in an Initial Public Offering. Under the holding firm are wholly owned subsidiaries D.M. Consunji, Inc, the construction group, and DMCI Project Developers Inc, the real estate and infrastructure investment group.

D.M. Consunji is engaged in general construction services - the company's core business. It is

DMCI/ 12

DMCI Homes builds exclusive communities with country club amenities

DMCI Homes has been in the business since 2000 only but has been making big strides largely because of the high quality of its projects and a growing base of satisfied clients.

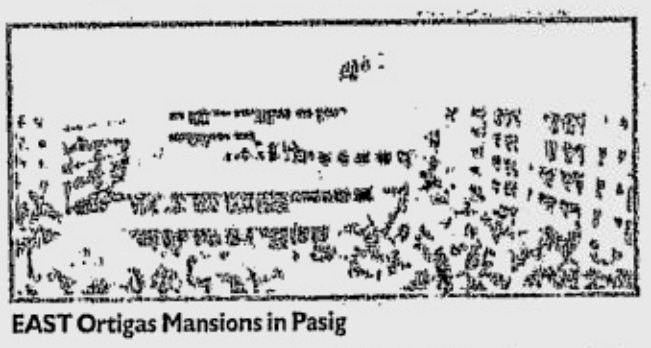
The property development business unit of the D.M. Consunji Group of Companies already has 10 residential developments in Metro Manila, each one offering ready-for-occupancy units. More projects are in the pipeline in the coming years, including joint ventures with landowners.

"If you look at our units, you will notice immediately the high quality of our finishes. That is an advantage we have because we are supported by the 50 years of experience and expertise of DMCI in construction," said Freddie Austria, head of DMCI Homes.

DMCI Homes, he added, builds exclusive, secure, landscaped and well-planned communities with country club amenities.

But while the projects' quality is high and the overall ambience is exclusive, the prices are comparatively very reasonable. "Again, our advantage is having a big construction company backing us up. This synergy allows us to pass on to our clients the savings in terms of lower prices which, depending on the location in Metro Manila," he said.

So far, DMCI Homes has sold more than 1,000 units from its various projects in Metro Manila, namely: Vista de Lago, Lakeview Manors, Rainbow Ridge, and Spring Lane Homes in Taguig; East Ortigas Mansions in Pasig; Hampstead Gardens in Sta. Mesa; Villa Alegre in Cavite; Palm Grove in Parañaque; and Mayfield Park Residences in Cainta.



EAST Ortigas Mansions in Pasig

Early next year, the company will start work on three projects in Metro Manila.

DMCI HOMES DEVELOPMENT FEATURES

• Low-density living. The total building footprint in each DMCI Homes development covers only 30 percent of the total land area. Medium-rise walk-up condominium buildings are designed with single-loaded corridors where units open up to well-landscaped open space and not to a neighbor's door for optimum privacy.

VISTA de Lago in Taguig

•High-end amenities. Central to any DMCI Homes community are luxurious lifestyle amenities such as swimming pool, clubhouse and sports facilities for the residents to enjoy any time of the day.

• Wide and well-landscaped open spaces are commonly found in a DMCI Homes' gated community.

• Ready-for-occupancy units. DMCI Homes offers readily available units and/or fast turnover of no longer than one year from the start of construction.

• High-quality workmanship. Only first-class materials and world-class construction methods are used, reflecting DMCI's trusted expertise in the business.

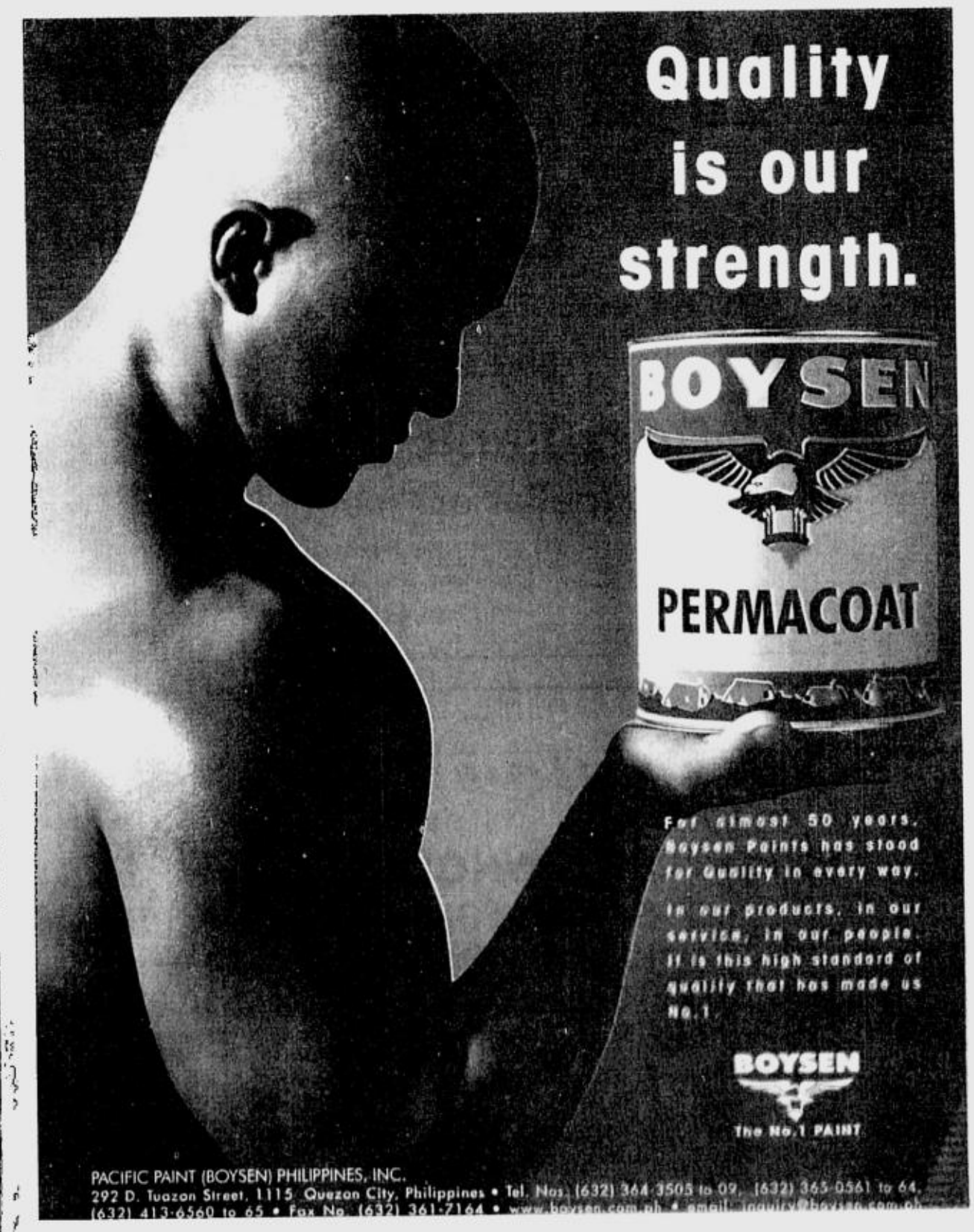
•Quality Warranty. DMCI Homes is the only developer that warrants to repair material and workmanship defects on the unit, if any, within one year from the date of buyer's acceptance.

• Exclusivity. Urban communities by DMCI Homes are gated and with perimeter fence for maximum security, putting together an exclusive and family-friendly neighborhood.

• Strategic location. Near Makati and Ortigas central business districts, the developments are conveniently accessible to schools, malls, churches, and government offices.

• Surprisingly affordable. A DMCI Homes condo unit price ranges from P840,000 to P3.9 million. For details, please call 888-333 or visit its website at www.dmci-homes.com.

IBIZA Building of East Ortigas Mansions



BEST COPY AVAILABLE

DMCI's 50 years of passionate . . .

From page II

also engaged in various construction component businesses such as production and trading of concrete products and electrical foundation works.

It is one of the acknowledged leaders in the Philippine construction industry, with a sterling reputation for quality projects delivered on time and its pioneering application of advanced engineering technology.

DMCI Project Developers Inc., on the other hand, is engaged in construction investments primarily through its significant minority interests in various projects and strategic partners, which add value and expertise to the various aspects of project development and implementation.

Growth and diversification

To maximize and sustain growth, DMCI forged alliances with international companies well-known in their respective fields of specialization. These alliances not only strengthened DMCI's market dominance, but also gave it the benefit of technology transfer.

DMCI currently has joint venture undertakings with John Laing International, an international general contractor with over 150 years experience, and Biwater International Ltd., a company with more than 35 years' experience in water and wastewater treatment services and environmental engineering.

Other DMCI partners include: Bachy Soletanche Group, whose specialty is foundation engineering and ground technology; Obayashi, one of the biggest construction companies in Japan; Nishimatsu, a Japanese firm specializing in civil engineering; and Marubeni and Itochu, two of the biggest sogososha in Japan.

The company has also tied up with Canada-based Eco Process and Equipment International for the supply and installation of wastewater treatment systems in the Philippines.

One of the most significant developments in the DMCI group's pursuit of strategic investments was the acquisition of a 66-percent interest in Semirara Coal Corporation in April 1997. A publicly listed firm, Semirara is the country's largest coal producer, with a current annual capacity of 2.2 million metric tons. The company has the exclusive rights to explore, mine and develop the coal resources in 500-hectare Semirara Island in Caluya, Antique, 300 kilometers south of Metro Manila.

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR 50TH YEAR IN BUSINESS

FROM:

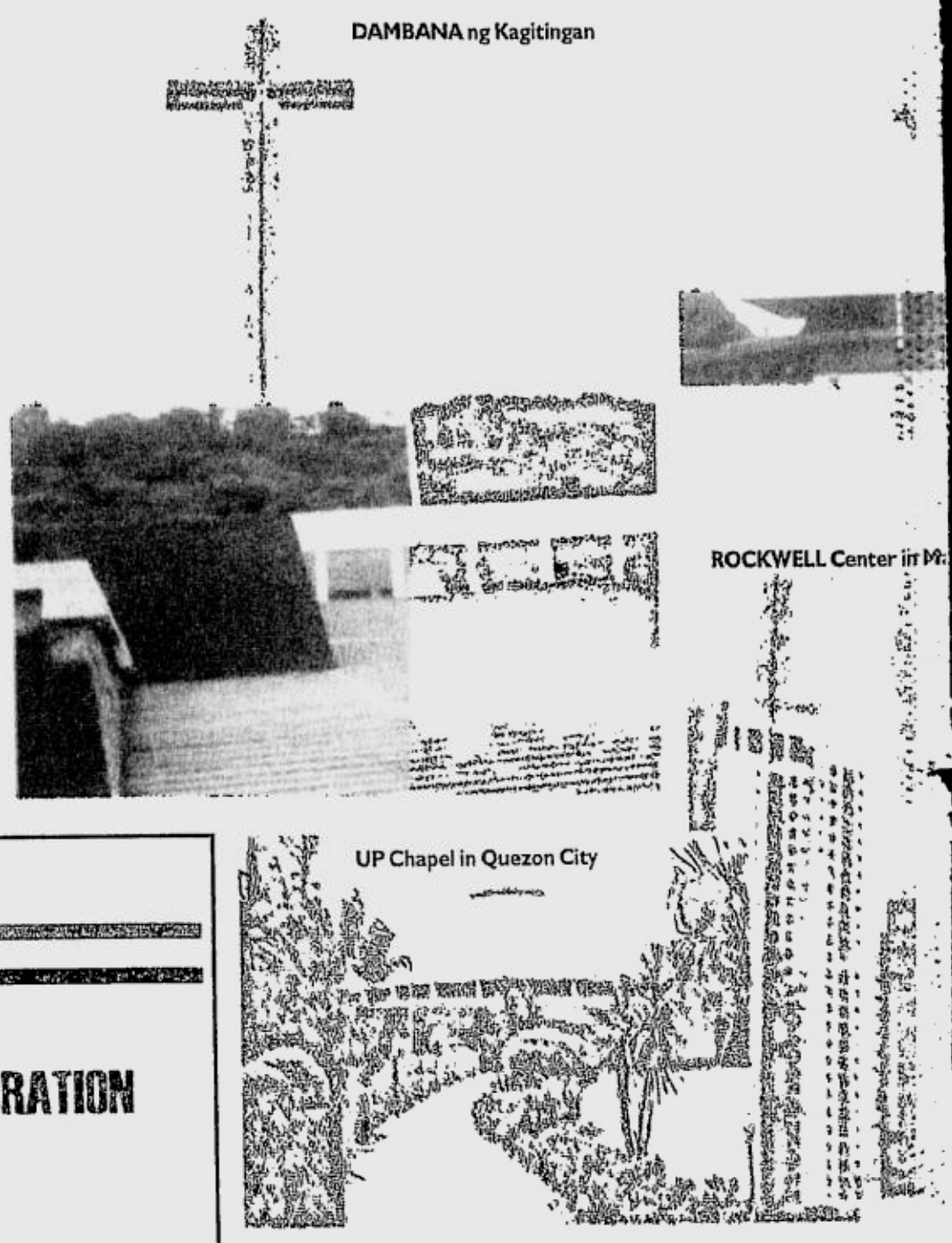
BETA ELECTRIC CORPORATION

No. 18 Bagong Calzada cor. Tomasa Sts., Barrio Ususan, Taguig, Metro Manila 1601
Telephone Nos.: 628-4122 / 628-4123 * Fax: 628-04-64
E-mail: Betafin@tri-isys.com

RACO-HAVEN AUTOMATION PHILIPPINES INC.

COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL AUTOMATION, PROCESS CONTROL AND INSTRUMENTATION SYSTEMS + RELATED ENGINEERING SERVICES

• NO. 18 BAGONG CALZADA, IJSUSAN, TAGUIG, METRO MANILA 1636 PHILIPPINES •
• TEL. NOS. (63 2) 628-4110, 628-4112 TO 16 • FAX NO (63 2) 628-0394 •
• WEBSITE. www.racohaven.com.ph •



AIMHEC

ASIA INDUSTRIES MATERIAL HANDLING EQUIPMENT CORPORATION
124 Domestic Road, Pasay City
Tel. Nos. (63 2) 851 4778 – 80 / Fax No. (63 2) 851 4697
E-mail : aimhec@greendot.com.ph

WATER PROOFING • CONCRETE REPAIR / EPOXY, INJECTION • GOMACO SLIPFORM PAVER
SUMITOMO EXCAVATORS • KAWASAKI WHEEL LOADERS • FG WILSON GENERATORS
ELBA BATCHING PLANT • DUA PLATE WEAR RESISTANT PLATES • PLATE COMPACTORS
CONCRETE SAW • POKER VIBRATORS • TAMPING RAMMER • CONCRETE SCREED
JACK HAMMER • FLOOR GRINDERS • FLOOR PLANER

A Passion to Build: A Men

THE CENTER of Leadership, Citizenship and Democracy (CLCD) of the UP National College of Public Administration and Governance (UPNCPAG), UP College of Engineering and the Philippine Constructors Association is launching "A Passion to Build: A Memoir of David M. Consunji," written by its founder and chair David M. Consunji.

The launching coincides with DMCI Holdings Inc 50th Anniversary celebration.

The center has also encouraged acknowledged leaders in various fields like Vice President Emmanuel Pelaez, Senator Raul Manglapus and Justice Cecilia Munoz Palma to write their own memoirs.

Former UP president Dr. Jose V. Abueva, who wrote the book's foreword, said the center believes that "good leaders are among the nation's most valuable assets. There are important lessons to be learned from their ideas, reflections, insights and experiences."

The book starts with the early life of Consunji, both during the pre- and post-war period. It chronicles

DMCI Homes offers

WITH the non-stop price increase in basic commodities, it is becoming more and more difficult for a typical Filipino family to own its dream house. Most families start out by renting apartments or townhouses, hoping against hope that one day, they would have saved enough to purchase their own house. While this may seem ideal, it also means working doubly hard to cover the monthly rent, the daily expenses, plus saving enough cash for the dream property.

But what if a family were allowed to live their dream house? And instead paying rent, they are actually paying their regular installment without having to shell out a huge amount of money upfront. DMCI Homes knows that every Filipino family dreams of having its own home. And while this subsidiary of the 50-year-old D.M. Consunji Inc has become noted

Congratulations!
DMCI
on your 50th Anniversary
Greetings coming from:
Pozzolanic Philippines, Inc.
Supplier of Quality Fly Ash
Unit 810 Pioneer Highlands, Pioneer,
corner Madison Sts., Mandaluyong City
(632) 637 - 3367

Remington INDUSTRIAL SALES CORPORATION
IMPORTER • WHOLESALER • RETAILER
EDSA corner Gen. Concepcion Street,
Kalookan City 1400, Philippines
Tel. Nos.: (63-2) 367-9001 (Trunkline); 367-9020 to 22 (Sales)
Fax Nos.: (63-2) 330-0008 * 330-0009
E-mail: remington@attglobal.net

CONGRATULATIONS
ON YOUR
50TH YEAR!
FILIPINO METALS CORP.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Semirara emerges as DMCI's top earning subsidiary

MIRARA Mining Corporation (SMC) became the top enue earner of the Consunji owned DMCI Holdings after it contributed P794 million in net profit to the nglomerate in the first nine months of the year, com- ed to only P70.2 million in same period last year. surging sales volume and coal prices have allowed C to post a 1,030-percent increase in its net income he first nine months of the year to P793.96 million npared with P70.21 million the previous year. otal sales jumped 122 percent to P3.64 billion from P1.64 billion from the previous year's level.

"With the strong performance of SMC, DMCI has solidified its position as the leading coal supplier in the country and is on track toward its goal of helping the country lessen its dependence on imported coal, and in effect help the country save on precious dollars", Isidro A. Consunji, SMC vice chair said.

To share its corporate wealth with its shareholders, SMC has declared a 900-percent stock dividend to existing shareholders, amounting to P225 million (equivalent to 225 million shares).

SMC accounts for 93 percent of local coal production, and accounts for 31 percent of the country's overall requirements, including imports. The firm's annual coal production will reach 2.6 million tons per year. The firm generates 100 percent of its revenues through the production of sub-bituminous coal.

SMC has a guaranteed long-term market because of its supply contract with the National Power Corporation. The firm also supplies the coal requirement for Philippine National Oil Corporation-Exploration Corporation, Mirant Philippines Power Plants and almost all of the cement manufacturing plants in the country.

"The growth of the mining industry is a critical ingredient for greater economic growth, attracting more investments, creating more jobs, and reducing poverty more speedily, particularly in the provinces," Consunji said.

Community development programs

With the firm's high performance financial results, its commitment for social and environmental development of the local community increased. SMC has constructed classrooms and school buildings. Scholarships are granted to deserving students from the island.

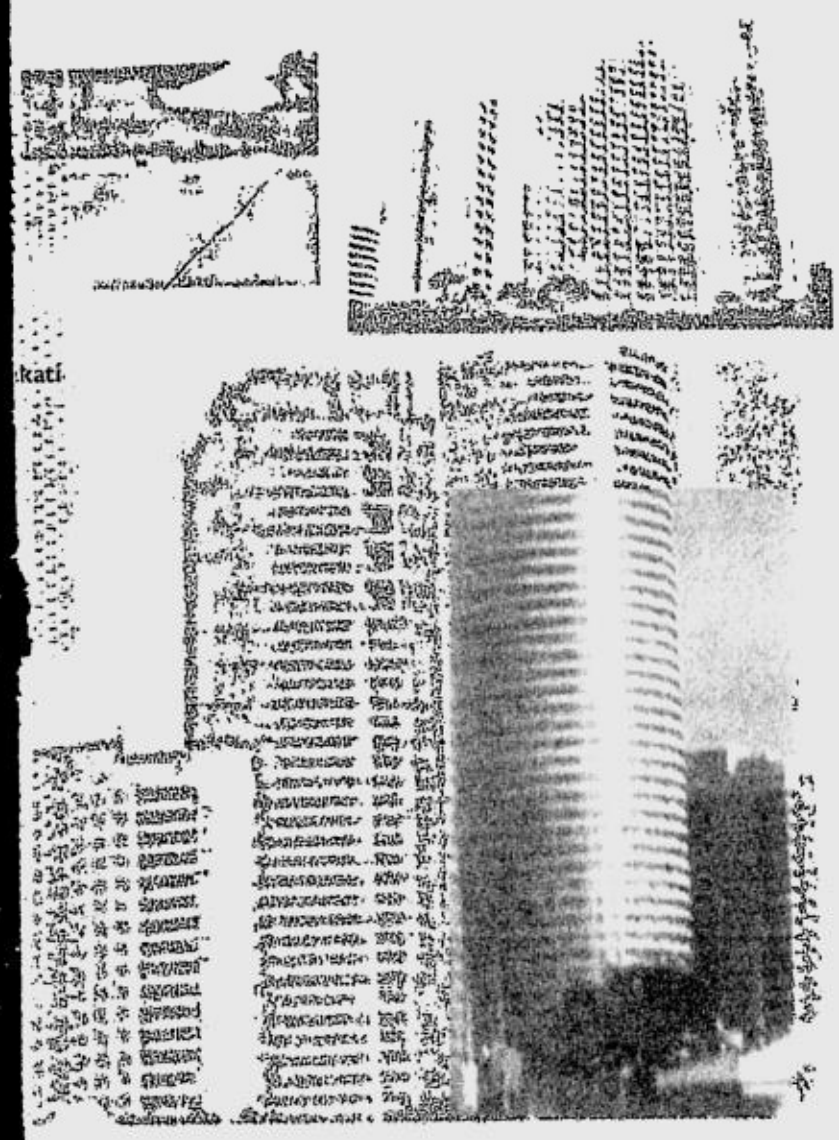
Roads were built linking all the barangays in the Island. SMC's electrification program benefited 543 households in seven barangays.

SMC envisions Semirara to be an eco-tourism center. It rehabilitated the Unong mine pit into a water reservoir and fish culture pond. As part of the firm's environmental protection and enhancement programs, it has developed 200 hectares of mangrove plantation around the island. To date, over 18,000 seedlings have been planted in 64 hectares, providing direct employment for the islanders.

Since DMCI's takeover of Semirara in 1997, it has progressively evolved and employs efficient, safe and environment-friendly mining system. The utilization of 100% Semirara coal or as a blend with imported coal in the power and cement industries complies with all of the standards set by the Clean Air Act.

CULTURAL Center of the Philippines

MAKATI Shangri-La



noir of David M. Consunji

DMCI's humble beginnings in the 1950s as a single-proprietor contracting firm founded by the young builder (then a concrete inspector) to DMCI's emergence as one of the biggest, most respected names in the infrastructure industry.

.Through the years, DMCI has become a byword in the construction world, responsible for building local and international landmarks such as the UP Chapel, the first building along Ayala Avenue, the Pacific Plaza, the CCP Complex, including the Westin Philippine Plaza and the New Istana Palace in Brunei.

Today, DMCI continues to lead the construction industry, building everything from high-rise condominium and commercial buildings to power plants and housing projects. The company's passion for excellent work and delivering on time remains undiminished fifty years later.

Truly, the company founded half a century ago by David M. Consunji is the best expression of his enduring passion to build.

rent-to-own condos

or developing operties at af- it also consid- characteristics ddle-class fam- rd economic the thrust be- lomes' rent-to- where buyers red to initially ount of the con- d are then al- e into the unit ased in, for in- Ortigas Man- sions , a prime DMCI Homes property located in Pasig.

According to DMCI director of marketing Rey C. Salazar, in the past, the company required a 10-percent contract price before buyers were allowed to move into the units they had purchased. "We realized that due to the harsh economic times prevailing today, some buyers have difficulty in meeting this requirement. Most buyers take the option of paying the unit with a certain amount of downpayment spread over a number of months. They move in months after they have purchased the unit. Now since the units are ready for occupancy and the units are on hold , it was only logical that we made things easier for these serious buyers. Thus with only 4 percent of the contract price, under the rent- to- own scheme, the

RENT-TO-OWN/14

UP-TOWN

UP-TOWN INDUSTRIAL SALES, INC.

UP-TOWN BLDG., 56-58 MADISON ST., MANDALUYONG CITY, PHILIPPINES
TEL.: 6318366 - 75 FAX NO.: (632) 631-5296 / 631-5290
E-MAIL ADDRESS : uplown@uptown.com.ph WEB SITE : www.uplown.com.ph

Congratulations to DMCI for 50 years of building history!

"Our business is solid thanks to the strength of Island Cement!"

Mr. Isidro A. Consunji
President
DMCI Holdings, Inc.

The strength of Island Cement has been key in building the reputations of many major builders and developers. This is because every bag of our cement consistently delivers the values of strength, durability and integrity.

Values that we have always stood by to help our partners stand strong, solid and successful, to overcome hard challenges in their respective inudstries.

For further information, queries and technical assistance, please contact us at:

VOICE: Metro Manila 849-3501 Outside Metro Manila 1-800-1-888-CMNT (2668)
FAX: Metro Manila 849-3502 Outside Metro Manila 1-800-10-CMNT-FAX (2668-329)
WEBSITE: www.cemexphilippines.com E-MAIL: servicecenter@cemex.com.ph

Operating hours are from 7am to 7pm Mondays to Fridays, 8am to 5pm on Saturdays and 9am to 12nn Sundays.

CEMEX

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

DMCI Homes offers rent-to-own condos

From page 13

lessee/buyer can move into the units of their choice, then.

Decide within a specified period if they want to own it." Through DMCI Homes' Rent-to-Own Program, a prospective buyer is therefore allowed to try living in the units, gets the 'feel' of the Place and the environment. It's actually a unique way of selling their properties. "It is a come-on scheme because for the time they will be given a chance to live amidst the total development and we are confident that this prospective buyer will definitely decide to take the option to purchase the unit; "he said.

In practice, Salazar explains, "We allow buyers to move into the units they chose to purchase with less front end money involved. By doing this we allow buyers to set up a sinking fund for the down payment requirements of purchasing a DMCI Homes unit. All the other terms apply. Same interest rates and net present value of the selling price for us." The Rent-To-Own Scheme is open to all DMCI Homes projects with ready for occupancy units. This is for the usual 6 months rental within which the lessee must declare his option to purchase. For Rainbow Ridge in Taguig, the scheme is extended to 10 months rental within which lessee must declare an option to purchase.

For more information, please call DMCI Homes at telephone number 888-3333.

Congratulation and best wishes on your 50th Anniversary!

D.M. CONSUNJI INC.

From:
ALPA PLUMBING-WORKS, INC.
157 Congressional Avenue,
Project 8, Quezon city
Tels. Fax# 456-7704, 453-0487, 453-0488
456-7705 & 456-7703

JBLS TRADING & CONSTRUCTION AESTHETICS

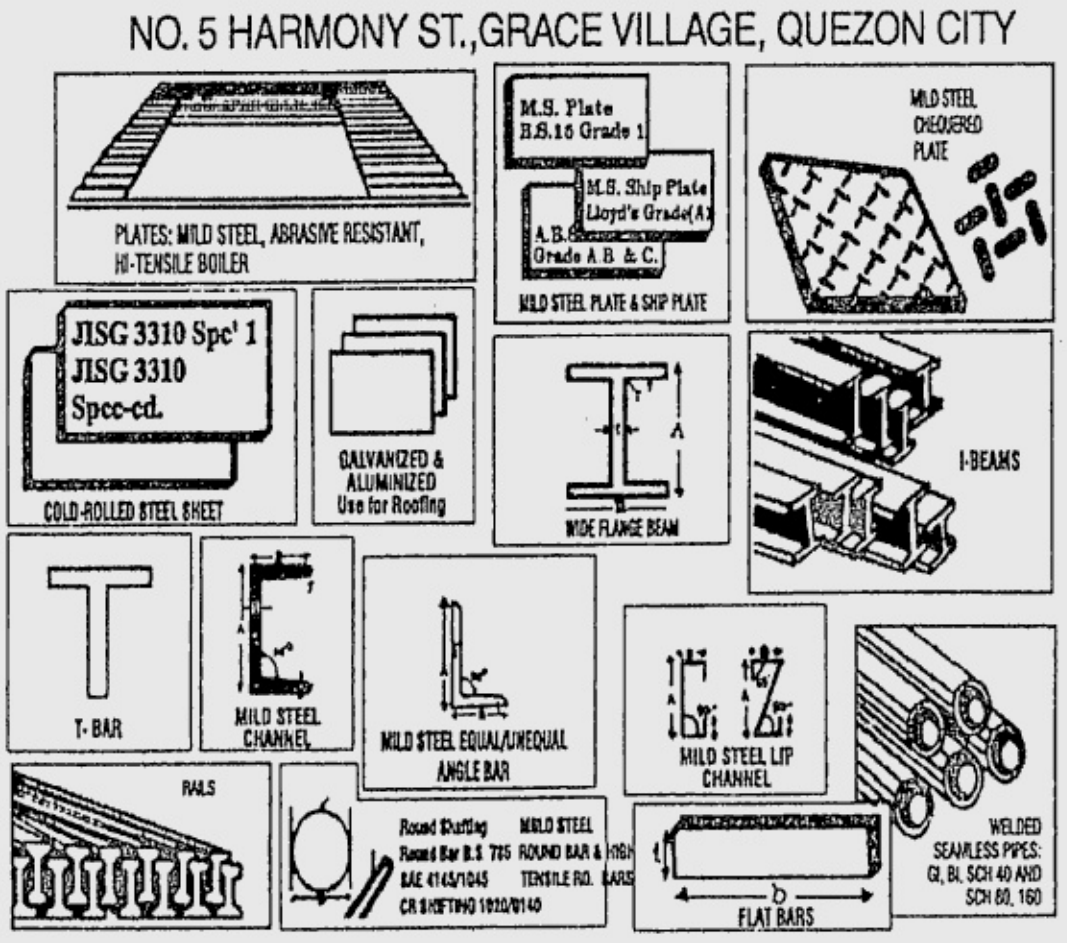
C/O ARK JEWELERS G/F COMMANDER REALTY BLDG
GEN MALVAR COR GEN ROMULO STS., CUBAO, QUEZON CITY

PAINTING CONTRACTOR OF HOUSES, BUILDINGS AND INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX

CONTACT PERSON : MR. JOE BEN L. SANTOS OR SONNY L. SANTOS
TEL. NOS. : 911-3406 911-0390 852-5381 852-5370
911-0016 912-7868 853-0363 to 64
FAX NO. : 911-3406
E-MAIL ADDRESS : jblspainters@yahoo.com

JBL TRADING & CONSTRUCTION AESTHETICS

NAME IT, WE'VE GOT IT!
Regan Industrial Sales Inc.
NO. 5 HARMONY ST., GRACE VILLAGE, QUEZON CITY



Importer/Wholesaler of General Hardware
CALL US AT THE FF. NOS.:
361-3492 • 361-3494 • 361-3513 • 361-3522 • 361-7159
361-7178 • 363-3464 • 362-3173 • 362-3235 • 362-3284
362-3278/79 Fax Nos.: 361-3655 • 363-3464

Plamsa

SANITARY WARE
D-SQUARE PLUMBING SUPPLY, INC

818 T. ALONZO ST. STA. CRUZ, MANILA
AUTHORIZED DISTRIBUTOR

CONGRATULATIONS!

CORROTECH INCORPORATED

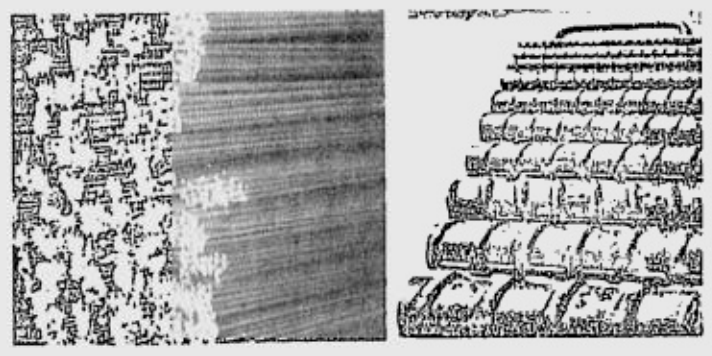
From:

CORROTECH, INC.
#9B Road 15, Project 8, Q.C.

Specialty Trade Contractor
PAINTING

PAG-ASA STEEL WORKS, INC.

First in Quality ...for the last 40 Years ... and Always!



Superior Reinforcing Steel Bars Available in:
PNS Grade 230 / ASTM Grade 33
PNS Grade 275 / ASTM Grade 40
PNS Grade 415 / ASTM Grade 60

Amang Rodriguez Avenue,
Bo. Manggahan, Pasig City 1611
Tel. No. 646-2196 to 99, Fax No.: 681-4601
Email: pagasast@info.com.ph

CERTIFIED
ISO 9002

ENTERTAINMENT Metro

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Louie C. Camino
Assistant Editor Emmie G. Velarde

Text us your feedback: inquirer ent name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Bettinna beyond beauty

Still in high school, she's gearing to be a filmmaker

By Cathy Azanza
Contributor

APART from her beauty and talent, one of the most striking characteristics of young actress Bettinna Carlos is her razor sharp memory. She remembering exact dates of special moments in her life.

Recently, Bettinna committed a new date to memory: Oct. 25. It was the day she tied with Pauleen Luna for the award of Best New Female Television Personality in this year's PMPC Star Awards.

At the age of 16, Bettina has already captured the public, having starred in GMA 7's horror suspense show "Kakabakaba," and more recently appearing opposite Railey Valeroso in "Love to Love."

Learning to like it

Bettinna says she never meant to enter show business. She never even dreamt of becoming an actress or a commercial model.

"I would go to school, and then I would just play volleyball," she says. "That was really my interest." It was not until her mother picked up a newspaper with a print ad for Trumpets Playshop Modeling Workshop did Bettinna even consider finding a place in the spotlight.

"*Ayaw ko talaga nu'ng una*," she recalls. "But I tried it anyway and I learned to like it. You'll never know what you can do until you try."

In the workshop, Bettina was approached by Playshop teacher and talent caster David Cosico, who arranged for her initial video tape recording (VTR). Soon after, Bettinna found herself appearing in print ads and doing ramp modeling.

"My first ramp show was for this teen fashion magazine called HIP 2b Fab," says Bettinna, "then I went for a VTR for a GMA 7 station ID and I passed it."

Her work on this station plug was enough to earn her an invitation to participate in a new program that the network launched months later. The show was the thriller "Kakabakaba," and it marked the beginning of Bettina's life as a teen star.

Homework on the set

Despite the long taping hours, Bettinna diligently attends to her studies at the University of the Philippines' Integrated School (UP-IS), where she is a scholar. In addition to packing her costumes for any given shoot, Bettinna makes sure to take along her laptop so that she can do her homework between takes.

"School is a priority, of course," she declares without hesitating. "If I had to pick between show biz and school, I would pick school. *Importante yung nakapag-aral ka.* Show business is not forever. One day you could be a star, then the next day, *hindi ka na sikat.*

"I've given up some movie offers *kasi 'di na talaga kaya ng* schedule ko *'yung* shooting for movies. I'm graduating this year and I have college exams to worry about. *Siyempre* you have to prepare and study for them."

Bettinna is setting her sights on further education in UP where she plans to take Film and Audio Visual Communication. "I wanted to be a doctor, I think, when I was a little girl," she says. "But now, because I got exposed to show business, I want to go into film. I enjoy the acting part of my job, but I also want to get into directing."

This early, Bettinna has spent some of her free time on the set trying to learn about shooting and editing. She observed director Mark Reyes at work during the tapings of "Kakabakaba."

"Super idol *ko si* Direk Mark," she gushes. "*'Pag may* taping *kami, uupo lang ako du'n sa* OB van and I watch him call the shots. He explained to me how everything worked."

Saving lives

Bettinna's ambitions, however, do not end with pursuing a career as a film director. She has participated in programs under GMA 7's Kapuso Foundation. Recently, she shared an afternoon with the Philippine National Red Cross youth volunteers in celebration of their Youth Month.

"I was only supposed to sing 'Superman,' but I felt I had to say something so I ended up giving a speech. It was the first time I gave an impromptu speech like that. The volunteers were not older than 20. I told them, 'Live a physiologically clean life. Save your blood. By being a blood donor, you can save many lives. And who knows? It might even be a loved one's life that you could save."

The Red Cross experience inspired Bettinna to pursue an application to join the core. "I'm so proud that I can say that there are members of our generation that have a notion of social responsibility. *Sabi kasi nila* liberated *masyado ang* generation *namin*. It's good to know that there are good examples among the youth."

When asked about her ultimate goal in life, Bettinna says, "I want to be an inspiration to other people. I want the youth to see that you can balance school with work and still help the community.

"Your reward is the fulfillment of making other people happy."

"I WANT to be an inspiration to other people," declares the 16-year-old Bettinna Carlos

Marco gets vote of sympathy for 'It Might Be You' role

FAST-RISING teen star Marco Alcaraz is steadily gaining a new set of fans for his challenging and ever-evolving role as Axel in the top-rating ABS-CBN primetime soap, "It Might Be You."

Now married to Cielo (Bea Alonzo), Axel finds himself being the martyr husband as he does everything he can to allow Cielo to see her long-time sweetheart, Lawrence (John Lloyd Cruz).

It's this sudden change of heart that's been winning the character—and the actor—more admirers who eagerly await each episode with excitement.

"If there's anyone who deserves credit for making the show the big success that it is today," Marco notes, "it's the avid followers and fans, as well as the show's writers who continue to make the story interesting enough to follow. I wouldn't be where I am now without all of them."

Suddenly, the fledgling actor is flooded with messages of sympathy. "*Mabait naman pala siya* (So, he's really a good person)!" a fan muses. "*Napakamartir naman niya* (But he's such a martyr)," adds another.

Not too long ago, Marco, a basketball player-turned-commercial model, was thrust in the limelight via the soap. "Whatever success I'm enjoying now, I owe to the show," he stresses.

He has appeared in ads for San Miguel, Astring-o-sol, Chowking, Smart, PLDT and Shopwise, and also modeled for Rustan's Springfield, GAS and Bench. He is currently an image model of JAG Jeans and Converse Shoes and among the biggest talents of ALV Productions Inc.

Marco is now one of ABS-CBN's hottest teen stars. He has also been tapped to join Regal Idols, Regal Films' latest batch of teen talents, and signed up with Star Cinema.

After a cameo role in Regal's recently released "A Beautiful Life," Marco is in the movie company's Metro Manila Filmfest entry, "Aishite Imasu (1941)," a Japanese period film directed by Joel Lamangan, and which stars Judy Ann Santos, Raymart Santiago, Angelu de Leon, Dennis Trillo and Jay Manalo. Marco plays a Japanese soldier who falls in love with a Filipina (Myx VJ Iya Villania).

He is thankful for Direk Joel's very thorough and disciplined approach to work. "Most actors are scared of him," Marco says, "and now, I understand why. But it's all for good reason. He wants you to give your best every time."

Fans can write Marco at ALV Productions Inc., Suite 902, The Taipan Place, Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center, 1605.

"ALEX" of soap plays a Japanese in "Aishite Imasu"

COME TO THE MAX!

AIM
ALUMNI
Leadership. Live It.

1st Merry AIM X'mas (MAX) Fair!

*Merry MAX to you!

08-09 December 2004 (Wed & Thurs) | 10 am - 8 pm
AIM Zen Garden, Asian Institute of Management
123 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City

★ MAXimum discounts on Asian finds, ethnic treasures and great gifts!
★ MAXimum food choices featuring delicious regional delicacies!
★ MAXimum fun w/ friends & family listening to live X'mas Carols performed by the Don Bosco Youth Center
★ MAXimum rewards w/ a trip for 2 to Hong Kong & other surprises
★ Alumni Thanksgiving Mass @ Zen Garden, 6:30 pm on Dec. 8, 2004

WITH MANY THANKS TO:
SMART GOLD Simply The Gold Life
PETRON
HSBC The world's local bank
Nestlé FoodServices
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
EQUIS ACCREDITED

5 Hitmakers together again

THE FIVE Great Hitmakers team up again for another show on Dec. 14 at the Metro Concert Bar on West Avenue in Quezon City as Rico J. Puno, Hajji Alejandro, Rey Valera, Marco Sison and Nonoy Zuñiga sing their hits in an evening of nostalgic music and fun called "GH5 Once More."

From their sell-out shows in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Florida, New Jersey and Chicago,

5 HITMAKERS/ 2

GH5 (from left) Marco, Hajji, Rey, Rico J and Nonoy

SHOW TIME

Christmas with music at Star Malls

THE STAR Group of Malls celebrates Christmas with the finest musical talents.

Crooner Enrique Marcos sings ballads during "Collection of Classic Love Songs" mall tour on Dec. 14 on the 2nd level activity hub of Starmall Las Piñas and on Dec. 19 on the 4th level tradehall of Metropolis Star Alabang. Enrique will be performing classics such as "My Funny Valentine," "I Honestly Love You," "Beautiful Lady" and more of your favorite love songs live. All shows begin at 5 p.m.

Next, the Jerome Abalos Mall Tour hits the Star Group of Malls on Dec. 12 on the 2nd level activity area of Starmall Edsa.

After a successful show held recently at Starmall Las Piñas, master rapper Francis Magalona will be at Metropolis Star Alabang today and at Starmall Edsa on Dec. 14 for other shows with special surprise guests.

See the latest holiday fashion at the Ramp and Rhythm in Yule fashion and musical show on Dec. 12 at Starmall Las Piñas, Dec. 19 at Starmall Edsa and Dec. 26 at Metropolis Star Alabang. See the latest Christmas apparel from Robinson's Department Store, RRJ, Blues Brothers, swimwear and formal wear by designer Jan Ener Maningat and the corporate wear collection by designer Eric Pineda.

Finally, a Christmas treat Metropolis Star Alabang and Nestlé: a free show featuring one of today's hottest young stars, Angel Locsin of "Mulawin," and actor Tyrone Perez on Dec. 12, 3 p.m on the 4th level trade hall of Metropolis Star.

Have a merry Christmas from the Star Group of Malls! The Star Group of Malls is composed of Starmall Edsa, Metropolis Star Alabang and Starmall Las Piñas.

5 Hit-makers together again

From page 1

the sensational five are once again singing for the local audience, under the musical direction of Gerry Matias.

The Great Hitmakers will perform songs that have been favorites of Filipino music lovers for decades. Rico J's "Kapalaran," Hajji's "Panakip Butas," Rey's "Pangako sa Iyo," Marco's "My Love Will See You Through" and Nonoy's "Never Ever Say Goodbye," among many others, are part of the show.

Special guests of "GH5 Once More" are Mark Kevin and Tosca Puno.

Tickets are available at Ticketnet (911-5555), NJ Associates (929-5330 or 372-4265) and Coriks (897-3247).

"GH5 Once More" is produced by RJP Foundation and NJ Associates to help the Feeding Program of RJP Foundation.

SM CINEMA movietime

I whattowatch I

—THE— PODIUM CINEMA

1 GEORGE AND THE DRAGON

2 BIRTH

For Seat Reservation, call 633 8976
LATE NIGHT SCREENING
DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS

MTRCB RATING: R13 **2046**

SM Megamall Cinema 1 · SM North Edsa Cinema 8 · SM Southmall Cinema 3 · SM Manila Cinema 6 · SM Sta. Mesa Cinema 4

ALEXANDER MTRCB RATING: R13

SM Manila Cinema 4 · SM Sta. Mesa Cinema 3 · SM Fairview Cinema 4 · SM Megamall Cinema 8 · SM North Edsa Cinema 7 · SM Southmall Cinema 8 · SM Tuluban Cinema 4

SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING **BIRTH**

SM Southmall Cinema 1 · SM North Edsa Cinema 1 · SM Megamall Cinema 4 · SM Sta. Mesa Cinema 9 · SM Manila Cinema 3

BRIDGET JONES 2 MTRCB Rating: PG 13

SM Manila Cinema 11 · SM Megamall Cinema 11 · SM Fairview Cinema 7

SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING **NED KELLY**

SM Sucat Cinema 4 · SM Bicutan Cinema 4 · SM Tutuban Cinema 2 · SM Sta. Mesa Cinema 2 · SM Southmall Cinema 4 · SM Manila Cinema 5 · SM Megamall Cinema 5

ONE MISSED CALL SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING

SM Manila Cinema 8 · SM Megamall Cinema 2 · SM Southmall Cinema 10 · SM Sucat Cinema 1 · SM North Edsa Cinema 4 · SM Sta Mesa Cinema 6 · SM Bicutan Cinema 3

SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING **PA-SIYAM**

SM Bicutan Cinema 2 · SM North Edsa Cinema 3 · SM Manila Cinema 9 · SM Sta Mesa Cinema 1 · SM Megamall Cinema 6 · SM Southmall Cinema 7 · SM Sucat Cinema 3 · SM Fairview Cinema 9 · SM Tutuban Cinema 3

BCUZ OF U SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING
SM Manila Cinema 12 · SM North Edsa Cinema 5 · SM Megamall Cinema 9 · SM Sta. Mesa Cinema 10 · SM Fairview Cinema 5 · SM Southmall Cinema 6

GEORGE OF THE DRAGON SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING
SM Manila Cinema 2 · SM North Edsa Cinema 2 · SM Megamall Cinema 3 · SM Sta. Mesa Cinema 8 · SM Tutuban Cinema 1 · SM Sucat Cinema 2 · SM Bicutan Cinema 1 · SM Southmall Cinema 2

THE POLAR EXPRESS MTRCB Rating: G
SM Megamall Cinema 10 · SM Sta Mesa Cinema 7 · SM Southmall Cinema 5 · SM Fairview Cinema 8

NATIONAL TREASURE MTRCB RATING G
SM Manila Cinema 1 · SM Fairview Cinema 6 · SM North Edsa Cinema 6 · SM Megamall Cinema 7 · SM Southmall Cinema 9 · SM Sta. Mesa Cinema 5

SANTA SANTITA MTRCB RATING. PG13
SM Fairview Cinema 1 · SM Manila Cinema 7

Movies are subject to change without prior notice · For complete movie schedule, visit www.smcinema.com

Collect Go & get a for FREE!

Collect 6 Go!100 with "Go! See A Movie" label and exchange them for 1 deluxe SM Cinema Movie Card.

Promo Period:
November 15, 2004 - February 28, 2005

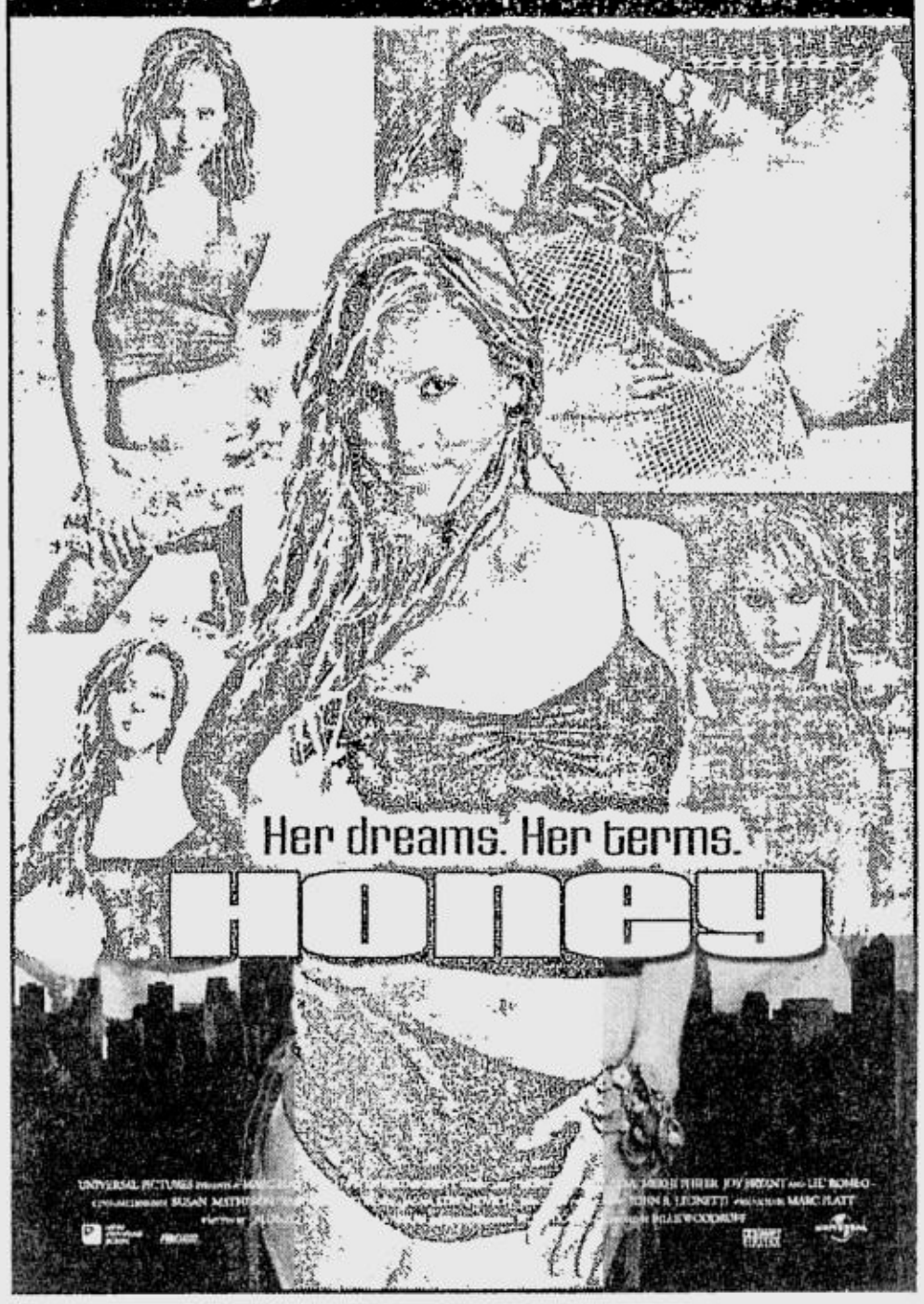
EASTERN TELECOM

SM CINEMA

Per DTI NCR Permit No. 2229 Series 2004

PG-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP. OPENS DECEMBER 15

See Dark Angel's JESSICA ALBA in a sexy, wild and provocative role



MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

CHANG CINERAMA Telephone: 633.2777 / 633.7851 loc. 171

PREMIERE THEATRE
(2:30) NATIONAL TREASURE GP
1 (2:30) POLAR EXPRESS GP
CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS GP
2 (2:30) BRIDGET JONESS PG13
3 (2:30) ONE MISSED CALL R13
4 (2:30) 2046 R13

SUPER CINERAMA Isetann CINERAMA COMPLEX RECTO tel 733.4238
1. (2:00) BIRTH
2. ALEXANDER
3. NED KELLY
4. ONE MISSED CALL
5. SALAT

Gotesco Grand Central (Caloocan) tel 364.3781
1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE
3 RESERVE
4 (2:00) RESERVE
5 RESERVE
6 (2:00) RESERVE
7 (2:15) RESERVE
8 RESERVE
9 RESERVE

Berma Cinema (Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 SALAT
2 SEED OF CHUCKY

Lianas Cinema (Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (2:00) SALAT
2 AFTER THE SUNSET
3 NANANABIK
4 (2:15)

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA (Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (2:00) PA-SIYAM
2 (10:00) CHRISTMAS WITH A KRANKS
3 (2:15) POLAR EXPRESS
4 (GOLD 2:15) 2046
5 (GOLD 2:00) BIRTH
6 (GOLD 2:00) NATIONAL TREASURE
7 (GOLD 2:00) ALEXANDER
8 (PREM) BCUZ OF U
9 (PREM) SEED OF CHUCKY
10 (PREM) BRIDGET JONES

Masagana CINEMA (Pasay) tel 833.3290 833.3274
1 SEED OF CHUCKY
2 PASIYAM
3 SALAT

MAPLE 111 A.F Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 SEED OF CHUCKY
2 AFTER THE SUNSET
3
4 RESERVED

st rmall www.clickthecity.com.ph Movies (Las Pinas) tel (047) 237.7007
1 (10:00) RESERVED
2 THE INCREDIBLES

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) BRIDGET JONES DIARY 2
2 (DOLBY) NATIONAL TREASURE
3 (DOLBY) BIRTH
4 (DOLBY) 2046

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Lucky Chinatown Center MALL CINEPLEX tel 911-5101 loc 8242 / 8281 / 8397
3 (Dolby) ALEXANDER
4 (SDDS) NATIONAL TREASURE
5 (DTS) BRIDGET JONES
6 (Dolby) PA SIYAM
7 (Dolby) BCUZ OF U

st rmall www.clickthecity.com.ph Movies (Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 ALEXANDER
4 (10:00) GEORGE AND THE DRAGON
5 SALAT SA LIGAYA

METROPOLIS star www.clickthecity.com.ph (Alabang) tel 850.4285
1 BIRTH
2 SALAT SA LIGAYA
3 PA-SIYAM
4 BCUZ OF U
5 (2:00) ALEXANDER
6 NATIONA TREASURE

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Meet the Looney Tunes characters

THE ROBINSONS Malls are presenting "Christmas with Looney Tunes at the Robinsons Malls" until Dec. 17 in a series of live shows and meet-and-greet sessions in their Metro Manila and provincial outlets.

Classic Christmas carols and Looney Tunes will serve as musical backdrops for the mini shows which will feature Tweety, Tazmanian Devil, Bugs Bunny and Daffy Duck. Songs like "All I want for Christmas," "I Tawt I Taw Ol' Tanty Claus" and "Halle-Looney Chorus Medley" will be performed.

Fans and followers of the cartoon characters can catch their live shows and join the meet-and-greet at 4 p.m. at Robinsons Place Imus on Saturday, Dec. 11; Robinsons Place Dasmariñas, Sunday, Dec. 12; Robinsons Place Pioneer, Saturday, Dec. 18; Robinsons Metro East, Sunday, Dec. 19; and 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. at Robinsons Place Manila, Friday, Dec. 10; and at Robinsons Galleria, Friday, Dec. 17.

There will also be a special meet-and-greet with the Looney Tunes characters on Dec. 11 at Robinsons Place Angeles in Pampanga.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY : LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	KERIDA / SUKDULAN
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	SALAT SA LIGAYA
B	CLOSED
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA 1,2,3&4	POLAR EXPRESS-XMAS W/ KRANKS/BRIDGET JONES 1 MISS CALL 2046
PREMIERE THEATRE	NATIONAL TREASURE

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	SAW
CINEMA-2	NAKAW NA SANDALI
CINEMA-3	NATIONAL TREASURE
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	POLAR EXPRESS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-6	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-7	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-8	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	BRIDGET JONES 2
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ALEXANDER
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	SEED OF CHUCKY
CINEMA-12	HELLWOLF
CINEMA-14	PA SIYAM
CINEMA-15	

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

(LAS PINAS)	BOURNE SUPREMACY
CINEMA-1	FENG SHUI
CINEMA-2	SECRET WINDOW
CINEMA-4	FANTASTIC MAUNTED 2

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

Eastwood City Walk 2, Enstwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City

For inquiries, call:
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1 BRIDGET JONES DIARY 2 — PLS. CALL FOR SCREENING TIME — PG-13
2 NATIONAL TREASURE — PLS. CALL FOR SCREENING TIME — GP
3 BIRTH — PLS. CALL FOR SCREENING TIME
4 2046 — PLS. CALL FOR SCREENING TIME

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City — Tel. No: 8981440-41 — DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

ALEXANDER R13 12:50,4:00,7:10,10:20	NATIONAL TREASURE GP 11:50,2:25,5:00,7:35,10:10	BRIDGET JONES PG13 12:50,3:10,5:30,7:50,10:10
CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS GP 12:00,1:55,3:50, 5:50,7:50,9:50	SEED OF CHUCKY R18 12:00,2:00,4:00, 6:00,8:00,10:00	POLAR EXPRESS GP 12:00,2:15,4:30,6:45,9:00

MATINEE SCREENINGS BEFORE 5:00 P.M. - P80.00 - MON. - FRI.

star group of cinemas movie guide — IN DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND

st mall	Metropolis Alabang Star	st mall
Tel. No. 726.61.50	Tel. No. 850.42.85	Tel. No. 873.50.04
3 One Missed Call	1 Birth	1 Reserved
4 Alexander	2 Salat sa Ligaya	2 The Incredibles
5 Salat sa Ligaya	3 Pa-Siyam	
	4 Bcuz of U	
	5 Alexander	
	6 National Treasure	

Everyday Family Day! @ Metropolis Cinema Get Free Toms World Tokens for every ticket purchase

For movie schedules visit www.clickthecity.com

THEATRE-MALL GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1: 2046 R13
CINEMA 2: BIRTH P13

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA • 7224496

MUSIC MUSEUM
DECEMBER 10 & 11 — KAYA 'HIPO' — 8:30PM
DECEMBER 17 & 18 — PENISTALKS' - The Repeat — 8:30PM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL: 721-8726 OR 721-0635

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 POLAR EXPRESS/ CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS (GP/GP)
2 BRIDGET JONES : The Edge of Reason (PG-13)
3 ONE MISSED CALL (R-13)
4 2046 (R-13)

PREMIERE THEATRE — NATIONAL TREASURE GP

Shangri-La Plaza

Enjoy our Screen Specials
Pay 20% less on Matinee Shows except on selected blockbuster movies
From Monday to Friday / Matinee Shows before 4 p.m.
For more details, please see Bim ieting at the Shang Cineplex ticket booths or call 633-2227 or 633-7851 local 171
Promo Period December 1-24, 2004 — Per DTI-NCR Permit No.A3-841, Series of 2004

Opportunity knocks but once.
JOB Market
Read it every Sunday only in the Philippines Daily Inquirer

Ayala Malls Entertainment

NOW OPEN!
Glorietta — Mall of Asia

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	BRIDGET JONES 12:50 3:10 5:30 7:50 10:10
2	DOLBY DIGITAL	BIRTH 12:15 2:25 4:35 6:45 8:55
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	ONE MISSED CALL 11:30 1:50 4:10 6:30 8:55
4	DOLBY DIGITAL	NED KELLY 12:20 2:30 4:40 6:50 9:00
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	
6	DOLBY DIGITAL	
7	DOLBY DIGITAL	
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	
9	DOLBY DIGITAL	
10	DOLBY DIGITAL	

EXPERIENCE MOVIE-GOING LIKE NO OTHER!
Opening very soon!

Like no other mall in the world
Glorietta Ayala Center Makati
Gatelay

ALI MALL CINEPLEX

3	DOLBY	ALEXANDER 1:30 5:10 8:40
4	DOLBY	NATIONAL TREASURE 1:00 3:40 6:20 9:00
5	DTS	BRIDGET JONES 11:40 2:00 4:20 6:40 9:00
6	DOLBY	PA SIYAM 11:20 1:40 4:00 6:20 8:40
7	DOLBY	BCUZ OF U 11:00 1:20 3:40 8:00 9:20

NEW FIESTA CARNIVAL
OPEN TODAY 4 pm to 10 pm

APARI A COLISEUM

Dec. 8	LEA SALONGA
Dec. 10	SLR vs. PUREFOODS
Dec. 12	RED BULL vs. COKE
Dec. 15	FEDEX vs. SLR
Dec. 25	DISNEY ON ICE 1pm/4:30pm/8pm
Dec. 26	DISNEY ON ICE 2pm/6pm

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

CINEMA ACCESS 635-5555 FOR ALL BRANCHES

MOVIEWORLD
www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

• METRO MANILA CINEMAS •

GALLERIA — 632-9115/16

1 NATIONAL TREASURE • THX	6 ONE MISSED CALL
2 BIRTH	7 PA-SIYAM
3 2046	8 ALEXANDER
4 NED KELLY	9 BRIDGET JONES 2
5 GEORGE AND THE DRAGON	10 TWO BROTHERS

ERMITA — 536-7809 to 12

1 GEORGE AND THE DRAGON	
2 BIRTH	5 BRIDGET JONES 2
3 2046	6 NED KELLY
4 ONE MISSED CALL	7 RESERVE

METRO EAST — 682-3193/99 / 682-8280

1 BCUZ OF U	5 BRIDGET JONES 2
2 NATIONAL TREASURE	6 BIRTH
3 NED KELLY	7 ALEXANDER
4 SEED OF CHUCKY	8 PA-SIYAM

NOVALICHES

1 ALEXANDER	5 BRIDGET JONES 2
2 NATIONAL TREASURE	6 CHRISTMAS W/ THE KRANKS
3 PA-SIYAM	7 THE POLAR EXPRESS
4 SEED OF CHUCKY	8 HELLWOLF

MOVIE Delights

- Purchase any of the Frito Lay products (Lay's, Doritos, Lay's Stax, Cheetos and Ruffles) with Promo Sticker
- Present the empty promo packs at the ticket booth and pay only P50.00 on Premier Prepaid Card

One (1) Promo Pack = One (1) Discounted Premier Ticket
Maximum redemption of two (2) tickets only per visit.

See Promo Posters for more details

Lay's Doritos Stax Cheetos Ruffles

Promo period: NOVEMBER 15 to DECEMBER 15, 2004

PIONEER

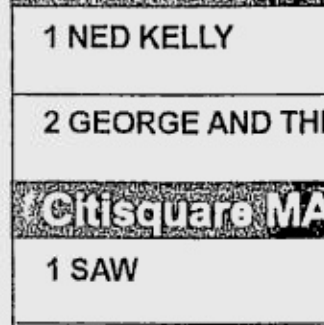
1 NED KELLY	3 ONE MISSED CALL
2 GEORGE AND THE DRAGON	4 BIRTH

Citisquare MALABON — 288-0960 / 2078

1 SAW	3 BCUZ OF U
2 SEED OF CHUCKY	4 NATIONAL TREASURE

CAINTA — 240-4961

1 ALEXANDER	3 PA-SIYAM
2 NATIONAL TREASURE	4 ONE MISSED CALL



The Perfect Gift All Year Round

A Pre Paid Movie Pass to the Hottest Seats in town.

Get Special discounts for volume purchases!
For marketing and events/reservations please call
Marketing Services Department at 687-7915 to 47 locals 14 and 15

ENTERTAINMENT Metro

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback: inquirer ent name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Salute! to 6 artists

"OTHER FIRST LADY" Elton John with longtime companion David Furnish

VAIN Beatty with Annette Benning

WASHINGTON—Elton John called his Kennedy Center Honor "icing on the cake," but actor Robert Downey Jr. got a frosty reception when he introduced the rock legend as "the other first lady."

John, opera diva Joan Sutherland, conductor John Williams and actors Warren Beatty, Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee were honored Sunday with a star-studded tribute at The Kennedy Center. The six recipients of the 27th annual Kennedy Center Honors were saluted for their lifetime contributions to American culture through the performing arts.

SHOW STOPPER

But Downey stole the show with his rambling tribute to John. The actor said he—like losing presidential candidate John Kerry—was suffering "from acute symptoms of another dual-diagnosis disease of mine: the ADD, of course, the altruistic Democrat disorder."

Three phrases

That drew nervous laughter from the audience, which included Senator Kerry as well as President George W. Bush and Mrs. Bush, Vice President Dick Cheney and his wife, Lynne, Secretary of State Colin Powell and the woman nominated to replace him, Condoleezza Rice.

John, 57, has sold more than 60 million albums in three decades with hits such as "Rocket Man" and "Goodbye Yellow Brick Road." Downey said three phrases came to mind when he thought of John: "genius, life saver, the other first lady."

At a reception at the White House Sunday afternoon, John said winning the honor "is about the icing on the cake. ...It's incredible for someone who's British to be given such an accolade from America, which has given me so much already in my career."

John was also serenaded by Kid Rock and Billy Joel.

Beatty, 67, is an actor, writer, producer and director. He has been nominated for Academy Awards 15 times, and won an Oscar in 1982 as best director for "Reds."

Beatty's vanity

Jack Nicholson, Beatty's neighbor and a previous honoree, said: "For years, Warren has dreamed of attending these awards. Unfortunately, not as a Kennedy honoree but as president of the United States."

Nicholson's comments about Beatty's legendary vanity even had Vice President Dick Cheney laughing out loud.

Australian-born soprano Sutherland, 78, was saluted by fellow opera singers Sherrill Milnes and Marilyn Horne, a previous honoree. Milnes called Sutherland "an avalanche of sound. She's become the standard by which all others are measured."

Composer and conductor Williams, 72, has won five Academy Awards, 17 Grammys and two Emmys and is best known for his film scores for "Star Wars," "Jaws," "Raiders of the Lost Ark" and "E.T."

Director Steven Spielberg called Williams "a national treasure, as American as apple pie and President Bush's mom," and noted, 'John Williams' scores are guaranteed to make you use a whole box of Kleenex."

Spielberg mused that he told Williams that his two note score for the movie "Jaws" seemed rather thin, but Williams replied, "I really think that's all you need."

Davis, 86, and Dee, 79, were celebrated for having appeared together and separately in more than 50 films.

Sentimental note

The annual celebration began with a Saturday dinner at the US State Department hosted by departing Secretary of State Colin Powell, and continued with a White House reception on Sunday hosted by President George W. Bush and first lady Laura Bush.

The celebration concluded with the Sunday evening Honors Gala at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts attended by 2,400 invitees, including actress Faye Dunaway and singer Billy Joel.

The evening began on a sentimental note as journalist Walter Cronkite, who has hosted the awards for the past quarter century, handed the master of ceremonies duties to President Kennedy's daughter Caroline.

The Honors Gala will be broadcast later in December on the CBS television network as a two-hour prime time special.

Sean "P. Diddy" Combs, who appeared in a recent Broadway revival of "A Raisin in the Sun," said he was inspired by Dee, who starred in the original production. "Ruby wanted me to understand how high the stakes were, that failure was not an option," Combs said. *AP, Reuters*

CONDUCTOR John Williams

ACTRESS Ruby Dee

DIVA Joan Sutherland

'National Treasure' digs up more millions at the tills

LOS ANGELES —Nicolas Cage logged a third weekend atop the North American box office on Sunday with his action-adventure "National Treasure," but overall ticket sales slid as movies competed for attention with shopping in the post-Thanksgiving holiday period.

One of the hardest-hit films was director Oliver Stone's "Alexander," which earned an estimated $4.7 million in the three days beginning Friday, losing about two-thirds of its opening-weekend tally as it dropped one place to No. 7.

The $150 million swords-and-sandals epic, starring Colin Farrell as the youthful Macedonian warrior, has pulled in $29.7 million after 12 days, and should finish with about $40 million, said a spokesperson for Warner Bros. Pictures. The studio paid $35 million for North American rights from producer Intermedia Films, a unit of Munich-based IM Internationalmedia AG. Intermedia has said it expects the film to do much better internationally, just as "Troy" did recently.

"National Treasure" dug up an estimated $17.1 million, taking its total to $110.3 million. The Walt Disney Co. picture is on track to surpass 1996's "The Rock" ($134 million) as Cage's biggest movie.

Sole newcomer

The only new entry in the top 10 was director Mike Nichols' potty-mouthed adultery drama "Closer," which opened at No. 6 with $7.7 million, a hefty number for a limited release.

Columbia Pictures' London-set drama, an adaptation of a play by British playwright Patrick Marber, stars Julia Roberts as a photographer who beds both Jude Law's journalist character and Clive Owen's dermatologist. Natalie Portman plays a stripper who also gets sack time with both men.

While all the movies in the top five played in more than 3,100 theaters each, "Closer" was launched in just 476 to "give it some time to mature," said Rory Bruer, president of domestic theatrical distribution at the Sony Corp.-owned studio. "It's daring, it's provocative, people are going to talk about it."

The studio will add 150 runs next weekend, and hopes the film's momentum will be boosted as critics' groups start naming their top picks of the year.

According to tracking firm Exhibitor Relations, the top 12 films earned $80 million, down 47 percent from last weekend, and off 10 percent from the year-ago period, when Tom Cruise's "The Last Samurai" opened at No. 1 with $24.3 million.

Columbia's holiday comedy "Christmas with the Kranks," starring Tim Allen and Jamie Lee Curtis, rose one place to No. 2 with $11.7 million. After two weekends, the film has earned $45.5 million.

'Express' chugs along

The costly computer-animated children's fable "The Polar Express," which started off slowly three weeks ago, is still chugging along, rising one to No. 3 with $11 million. The total for Warner Bros.' $170 million-budgeted production rose to $96.4 million. The Time Warner Inc.-owned studio partnered on the project with real-estate heir Steve Bing.

A Warners spokesperson predicted the Tom Hanks film would at least hit $130 million. He noted that it was No. 2 to "National Treasure" during the week, while its 43 percent drop from last weekend was the smallest among the wide releases in the top 10.

The superhero cartoon "The Incredibles" fell two places to No. 4 with $9.2 million in its fifth weekend, taking its total to $226 million. The Disney-distributed film was produced by Pixar Animation Studios Inc.

Yet another cartoon, "The SpongeBob Squarepants Movie," held steady at No. 5 with $7.8 million in its third weekend.

The total for the cable TV adaptation rose to $68.4 million. It was released by Paramount Pictures, a unit of Viacom Inc. *Reuters*

"TREASURE" looms to be the biggest movie of Cage (second from right)

"CLOSER," starring Julia Roberts and Clive Owen and directed by Mike Nichols, joins the top 10

WE DELIVER!

Hungry for news that would feed your mind? The Philippine Daily Inquirer delivers straight to your doorstep. Subscribe to the country's #1 newspaper now!

Call: 528-0183 / 528-0186

Fax reply coupon to: 528-02-34 or mail to:

Philippine Daily Inquirer
c/o Circulation Division
Ground Floor, Trinity Building
636 T.M. Kalaw St., Ermita, Manila

I'd like to subscribe to the Philippine Daily Inquirer.
Please have my copy delivered to:

Name _____
Address _____
_____ Tel. No. _____
Signature _____